FBIS DAILY REPORT

CONTENTS

Middle East & North Africa

Vol V No 143 *25 July 1978*

INTER-ARAB AFFAIRS

Arab League Continuing Consultations With Aden	A 1	1/A7
Fatah Official: PLO Rejects Egyptian Proposal [VOP]	A 1	1/A7
'Arafat Inspects Military Bases in S. Lebanon [VOP]	A 1	1/A7
Baghdad VOP: 'Arafat Men Attack Lebanese Nationalists	A 2	1/A8
Baghdad VOP: ''Arafat Clique' Denounced for Tripoli Attack	A 2	1/A8
INA Reports Statement Against 'Palestinian Right'	A 2	1/A8
Conference Submits Indictment of President as-Sadat	A 3	1/A9
'Arafat To Visit Cuba; Delegation To Visit Moscow	A 4	1/A10

ARABIAN PENINSULA

AS-SIYASAH Discloses International Campaign Against Waldheim	C 1	1/A11

SAUDI ARABIA

Somali President Leaves After 2-Day Visit	C 1	1/A11
Somali Minister Says Siad Barre's Talks 'Useful'	C 1	1/A11

YEMEN--PDRY

Isma'il Explains Events Leading Up to Recent Coup	C 2	1/A12
Muhammad Says No War With YAR Will Occur	C 4	1/A14

YEMEN--YAR

President Salih Gives Interview to Lebanese Newspapers	C 5	1/B1
AN-NAHAR Interview	C 6	1/B2
Salih Says No Mediation, No Dialog With PDRY	C 7	1/B3
Salih Addresses Message to Belgrade Nonalined Conference	C 8	1/B4
Salih Receives Messages From Iraq's Al-Bakr, Husayn	C 9	1/B5
Official Leaves for Nonalined Conference	C 9	1/B5

EGYPT

Mubarak: No Truth in Israeli Reports on Meetings	D 1	1/B6
Egypt Rejects Letter From Israeli Prime Minister	D 2	1/B7
MENA Quotes Israeli Radio on As-Sadat-Begin Interview	D 2	1/B7
AL-AHRAM Criticizes Begin's 'Arrogant' Policy	D 2	1/B7
AL-JUMHURIYAH Comments on Al-'Arish Issue	D 3	1/B8
State Minister Ghali Returns From Khartoum	D 3	1/B8
Discusses African Summit	D 3	1/B8
National Security Council Emergency Meeting Called	D 4	1/B9
As-Sadat Meets With Free Officers Delegation	D 4	1/B9

Egyptian, Yugoslav Officials Hold Talks	D 5	1/B10
Prosecutor Resumes Interrogation of Haykal	D 5	1/B10
Post of Prime Minister Will Not Be Abolished	D 5	1/B10
Alexandria University Celebration Postponed	D 6	1/B11
Ruling Party To Define Stand on New As-Sadat Party	D 6	1/B11
AL-AHAD Comments on Formation of New Party	D 6	1/B11
Arms, Narcotics Seized in Asyut Governorate	D 6	1/B11

IRAQ

Ba'th Party Delegation Leaves Baghdad for Havana	E 1	1/B12
Foreign Minister Hammadi on Belgrade Conference	E 1	1/B12

JORDAN

U.S. Envoy Atherton Arrives, Makes Statement	F 1	1/B14
Prime Minister Badran Replies to NCC Members	F 1	1/B14
New Arab Strategy Against Israel Urged	F 2	1/C1
Military Exercises in Area Like West Bank	F 3	1/C2

LEBANON

Voice of Lebanon Reports Sniping in Al-Hadath	G 1	1/C3
Spanish Embassy Damaged [Voice of Lebanon]	G 1	1/C3
Clashes Resumed	G 1	1/C3
Deterrent Forces Communique	G 1	1/C3
Sniping Continues 25 July [Voice of Lebanon]	G 1	1/C3
Foreign Minister Butrus Speaks to Journalists	G 2	1/C4
Former President Sham'un: Syrians Should Leave [Voice of Lebanon]	G 2	1/C4
Unified Forces Decide To Expel Undisciplined Elements [Voice of Lebanon]	G 3	1/C5
Nationalists Hold Press Conference, Criticize Sarkis	G 3	1/C5

SYRIA

Amman Cites Khaddam: Syria Wants To Withdraw From Lebanon	H 1	1/C6
Damascus Papers Warn of Phalangist, Sham'unist Plots	H 1	1/C8
Al-Asad Presides Over Progressive National Front Meeting	H 2	1/C7
Damascus Radio: Syria Now Speaks for Arab World	H 2	1/C7
Economy, Foreign Trade Minister Receives Polish Official	H 3	1/C8
Minister of State Receives UK's Lord Caradon	H 3	1/C8
Indian Official Leaves at End of 3-Day Visit	H 3	1/C8

NORTH AFRICA

LIBYA

Al-Qadhdhafi, Djibouti's Gouled Begin Talks in Tripoli	I 1	1/C9

MAURITANIA

MAP: MCNR Frees Former Minister	I 1	1/C9
Mauritania To Support OAU Efforts on Sahara Issue	I 1	1/C9
Foreign Minister Discusses Sahara Question	I 1	1/C9

MOROCCO

Boucetta: Belgrade Delegates Should Focus on Cuban Troops I 2 1/C10
Assistant Secretary of State Harold Saunders Departs I 4 1/C12
Mrs Lillian Carter Makes Stopover I 4 1/C12

SUDAN

Foreign Minister Leaves for Nonalined Conference I 5 1/C13

TUNISIA

Bulgaria Signs 5-Year Trade Agreement I 5 1/C13
ICFTU Lawyer To Be Admitted to Trade Unionist Trials I 5 1/C13

WESTERN SAHARA

POLISARIO International Relations Committee Communique I 5 1/C13
Panamanian Official Visits SDAR 'Liberated Areas' I 6 1/C14

ISRAEL

Knesset Holds Debate on Talks With Egypt N 1 1/D1
Dayan Speech N 1 1/D1
Allon Speech N 8 1/D8
Begin Speech N 14 1/D14
Other Speeches Reported N 20 1/E6
Further Report N 20 1/E6
Debate Concludes N 21 1/E7
Minister Yig'al Horowitz Withdraws Resignation N 21 1/E7
Minister Horowitz Discusses Reasons for Discontent N 21 1/E7

IRAN

Prime Minister Amuzegar Shuffles Cabinet R 1 1/E9
Earthquake Registered Southwest of Tehran R 1 1/E9

SOUTH ASIA

AFGHANISTAN

Taraki Meets, Addresses Citizens From Behsud S 1 1/E10
Kabul Reports on Revolutionary Council Session S 3 1/E12
U.S. Under Secretary David Newsom Received by Taraki S 3 1/E12
Received by Amin S 3 1/E12
Afghan-Soviet Border Bridge Construction Agreement Signed S 4 1/E13
Afghanistan, GDR Sign Trade Agreement 13 July S 4 1/E13
Foreign Minister, Delegation Depart S 5 1/E14

INDIA

Vajpayee Not To Cancel PRC Visit Over Karakoram, Kashmir S 5 1/E14
India Recommended To Head Nonalined Political Committee S 6 1/F1
Marxist Party Forms Trade Union Federation S 6 1/F1
[ANANDA BAZAR PATRIKA 17 Jul]
Delhi Reports Losses in Northern Floods S 7 1/F2

PAKISTAN

Agha Shahi Leaves for Belgrade Nonalined Meeting S 7 1/F2

SRI LANKA

Jayewardene Issues Statement on Anniversary of His Rule S 7 1/F2
TANJUG Interviews Hameed on Nonalined Goals S 8 1/F3

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ARAB LEAGUE CONTINUING CONSULTATIONS WITH ADEN

NC2418107 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1730 GMT 24 Jul 78 NC

[Text] Cairo, 24 July--Arab League Secretary General Mahmud Riyad has stated that the Arab League is continuing its consultations with the officials in Aden on sending an Arab League mission to the area without prior conditions.

The secretary general said in a statement today that the mission cannot carry out its goals properly unless Aden and San'a' approve of it. He said that the role of the Arab League is to create a better atmosphere is order to prevent an escalation of accusations and an aggravation of the differences between the two countries.

North Yemen had earlier welcomed a visit by an Arab League factfinding mission to find out the conditions on the borders and to ascertain that North Yemen has not been concentrating its forces on its border with South Yemen. Meanwhile, South Yemen has stated that it will agree to receive the league mission provided the Arab League suspends its decision which provides for the freezing of the Arab states' relations with the regime in Aden.

FATAH OFFICIAL: PLO REJECTS EGYPTIAN PROPOSAL

JN221943Y Voice of Palestine [Clandestine] in Arabic to Arab World 1800 GMT 22 Jul 78 JN

[Text] Brother Abu 'Iyad, member of the Fatah Central Committee, has stressed that a just peace in the Middle East will not be achieved if the Palestinians do not regain their national rights and return to their homeland. Speaking at a press conference in Kuwait yesterday, Abu 'Iyad said that the PLO rejects Egypt's recent peace proposal calling for the return of the occupied West Bank to the Jordanian administration and the occupied Gaza Strip to Egypt.

Talking to journalists, brother Abu 'Iyad revealed the aggressive and expansionist intentions of the Zionist entity aimed at occupying Jordan so that the oilfields in Saudi Arabia and the gulf will be under the enemy's control and at his mercy. He said that the PLO is ready to resume a dialog with Jordan on the condition that the Jordanian Government allow the fedayeen to return to Jordan. He added that the Jordanian Government should also agree to allow Palestinian citizens to practice political activity to explain their fateful issues. Abu 'Iyad added that the coming tours of U.S. Secretary of State Vance and of U.S. roving ambassador Atherton in the area are aimed at maintaining Egyptian-Israeli contacts. He said that the capitulatory initiative of As-Sadat is destined to fail and that daily events prove that as-Sadat's path is blocked. His initiative will only deepen differences between the Arabs, and this will serve Zionist and imperialist goals.

'ARAFAT INSPECTS MILITARY BASES IN S. LEBANON

JN231648Y Voice of Palestine [Clandestine] in Arabic to Arab World 1600 GMT 23 Jul 78 JN

[Text] Brother Abu 'Ammar yesterday inspected the bases of the Palestinian revolution in southern Lebanon, where he met with military cadres and commanders. During these meetings the internal situation, current local developments and all aspects of the military and political position in the south were discussed.

BAGHDAD VOP: 'ARAFAT MEN ATTACK LEBANESE NATIONALISTS

JN242027Y Baghdad Voice of Palestine in Arabic 1830 GMT 24 Jul 78 JN

[Text] Armed elements belonging to the 'Arafat gang yesterday attacked and occupied a base of the Lebanese Nationalist Movement at the Khuraybah village in Al-'Urqub.

News from southern Lebanon says that tension prevailed over the area following the new 'Arafat attack. Lebanese Nationalist Movement representatives held an urgent meeting to discuss the situation which resulted from this attack, which was part of the series of liquidation conspiracies being carried out by the 'Arafat command against the strugglers of the Nationalist Movement and the armed Palestinian revolution.

BAGHDAD VOP: 'ARAFAT CLIQUE' DENOUNCED FOR TRIPOLI ATTACK

JN242110Y Baghdad Voice of Pales[illegible] Arabic 1830 GMT 24 Jul 78 JN

[Text] Palestinian revolution groups in the Socialist People's Libyan Arab Jamahiriyah have denounced the treacherous attack launched by the Palestinian rightist reaction clique of Yasir 'Arafat against the offices of the Palestinian national liberation movement--Fatah-Revolutionary Council--[in Tripoli] last Wednesday.

A statement issued by these groups today said that Palestinian rightwing factions are completing their murderous plans to tear apart the Palestinian revolution and to open up internal struggle inside the Palestinian ranks. The statement added that this act is in line with all that has been perpetrated by the Palestinian rightwing in Lebanon in the past against the strugglers of the revolution who are loyal to their principles and who oppose the course which links its destiny to that of Arab reaction. The statement concludes that the rancorous hands will be punished in the end.

The statement was signed by the following groups: Palestinian Popular Struggle Front; Palestinian Liberation Front; Palestinian national liberation movement--Fatah-Revolutionary Council; Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine; and the Democratic Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine.

INA REPORTS STATEMENT AGAINST 'PALESTINIAN RIGHT'

JN221606Y Baghdad INA in English 1530 GMT 22 Jul 78 JN

[Text] Beirut, 22 July--The Political Committee of the Palestinian revolution charged [the] Palestinian right with attempts to find side quarrels with Palestinian contingents with the object of occupying bases of the Democratic Front in southern Lebanon to create a conflict with the Arab Liberation Front in the south.

In a statement published here today, the committee added these attempts aspire to liquidate [the] national and democratic line of Fatah movement, try to terrorize Palestinian masses in Kuwait, put an end to the Palestine Liberation Front and to have conflicts with the rejection front. All these attempts were followed by the assassination of the Revolutionary Council's (Fatah) militants in Libya, the statement added.

The committee called upon national and progressive Arab forces to condemn such a state of affairs which enhances the aggressive role of world Zionism.

CONFERENCE SUBMITS INDICTMENT OF PRESIDENT AS-SADAT

JN221558Y Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 1215 GMT 22 Jul 78 JN

[Excerpts] Damascus--The Permanent General Secretariat of the Arab People's Conference held a large international press conference this morning in the conference hall of the Meridian Hotel in Damascus. Well over 300 Arab and foreign newsmen, correspondents of Arab and foreign news agencies, and correspondents of world radio and television attended the press conference. Representatives of some 200 political and labor organizations in the Arab homeland also attended.

The conference began with an address by Dr Sabir Falhut, doyen of Syrian journalists. He welcomed those attending the press conference in Damascus, which represents the conscience of the Arab nation and its creative image as well as its steadfastness in the face of Zionist and imperialist challenges.

Dr Falhut spoke about the national crime committed by As-Sadat against our people and the honorable history of our struggle. He said that Arab Syria under the leadership of His Excellency President Hafiz al-Asad has devoted its entire being to the Arab cause and the future of the Arab nation as well as to foiling As-Sadat's capitulatory line.

'Umar al-Hamidi, secretary general of the Arab People's Conference, then read the statement of the conference's General Secretariat on the national trial of As-Sadat on charges of high treason. The statement says: This comes in implementation of the resolutions of the Arab People's Conference held in Tripoli when it was decided that the treason committed by As-Sadat dictates that he be tried on charges of committing crimes against the Arab nation and its central issue, and against the Egyptian Arab people.

The statement points out that the aim behind this trial is to indict a whole political trend oriented toward relinquishing the rights and future of the Arab nation.

The statement emphasizes that the will of the Arab nation is stronger than all the enemies and agents, and that the Arab nation, as it always been, is capable of rectifying the course and achieving victory.

Al-Hamidi also read the resolution of the purview of the Arab People's Court and the public prosecution which is made up of members of all Arab states. He said the court has a pan-Arab nature and is devoted to trying As-Sadat and others. This court is responsible to the Arab People's Conference.

After the members of the public prosecution were sworn in, Dr Ahmad 'Abd al-'Al, chief public prosecutor, read the bill of indictment.

The bill of indictment reviews the facts related to As-Sadat's visit to the Zionist entity. The bill says: The visit in its form, content and results has the components of the crime of high treason on the domestic and pan-Arab levels. The bill of indictment also says that the visit by the Egyptian ruler to the Zionist entity constitutes actual and official recognition of the Zionist entity--a recognition of the legitimacy of the Zionist usurpation of Palestine and the displacement of its people. Consequently, the visit consolidates the position of the Zionist entity as an occupier and weakens the Arab struggle to liberate the occupied areas.

The bill of indictment emphasizes that As-Sadat has carried out the major task of preserving foreign imperialist interests which are hostile to the Arab national interests, and of suppressing and obstructing every Arab action to consolidate national independence and free the Arab nation from the political, economic and strategic tutelage of Zionism and imperialism.

The bill of indictment says that As-Sadat has violated the resolutions of the Arab summit conferences related to the Palestinian issue. It also points out the crimes committed by the Egyptian ruler against the Egyptian people.

The bill of indictment reviews As-Sadat's measures aimed at destroying the progressive line of liberation in Egypt as well as his following a path based on the destruction of the political and economic independence of Egypt and his weakening of the military capability of the Egyptian Army by pursuing a policy of the so-called diversification of arms sources, thereby making the arming of the Egyptian Army dependent on the imperialists--the allies of the Zionist enemy who are eager to maintain the enemy's military superiority.

After reviewing As-Sadat's domestic and pan-Arab crimes, the bill of indictment requests he be tried on charges of high treason against the homeland, against the Palestinian Arab people and their just struggle, against the Arab nation and its legitimate struggle for freedom and progress, and against its imperialist and Zionist enemies, as well as on charges of destroying our national economy, deliberately starving our people and making our independent homeland a base for the U.S. imperialists--the enemies of our people, the Arab nation and world peace.

The bill of indictment requests the indictment of As-Sadat as an enemy of our people, nation and world peace because the policy he is following strips him of the legitimacy of remaining as president of the Arab Republic of Egypt. The course which As-Sadat's regime is following lacks any historic or social basis for legitimacy.

'ARAFAT TO VISIT CUBA; DELEGATION TO VISIT MOSCOW

NC2412477Y Doha QNA in Arabic 1222 GMT 24 Jul 78 NC

[Text] Beirut, 24 July--It was learned in Beirut today that PLO Executive Committee Chairman Yasir 'Arafat will leave for Havana within the next 2 days to attend the World Youth Festival as a guest of honor. During his visit, he will meet with Cuban officials.

A Fatah delegation is expected to leave Beirut for Moscow on Wednesday to hold talks with Soviet party officials. The delegation will be headed by Mahmud 'Abbas, alias Abu Mazin; and will include Salah Khalaf, alias Abu Iyad; and Khalid al-Hasan, alias Abu Sa'id.

AS-SIYASAH DISCLOSES INTERNATIONAL CAMPAIGN AGAINST WALDHEIM

JN2241027Y Manama GULF NEWS AGENCY in Arabic 0850 GMT 24 Jul 78 JN

[Text] Kuwait, 24 July--UN Secretary General Dr Kurt Waldheim is currently being subjected to a clandestine international campaign aimed at removing him from his current post.

Reporting this today, the Kuwaiti newspaper AS-SIYASAH says that part of Waldheim's current tour of the Arab world is somewhat personal and is aimed at obtaining support from the area's countries to help him remain in his post by voting for his renomination in September.

The paper adds that the information received by a number of gulf states confirms that a clandestine dispute is currently taking place in the United Nations aimed at replacing Dr Waldheim with (James Junah), the Afro-Asian countries' candidate. (Junah) comes from Sierra Leone. He served as legal counsel to the secretary general for several years and is now director of UN forces in the Middle East.

These sources asserted that the campaign to which Waldheim is currently being subjected results from his failure to move in Africa during the latest events in Shaba Province.

UNIFIL Commander Gen Emmanuel Erskine is vigorously participating in this campaign and is strongly supporting the nomination of (Junah) because he covets the post of general coordinator of UN troops in the Middle East currently held by General Siilasvou.

The paper says that the causes of the overt sensitivities between Waldheim and Erskine over the real role of the UN troops in southern Lebanon were due to the role played by Erskine in support of (Junah).

SAUDI ARABIA

SOMALI PRESIDENT LEAVES AFTER 2-DAY VISIT

LD2418362 Riyadh SNA in Arabic 1752 GMT 24 Jul 78 LD

[Text] At-Ta'if--His Excellency Mohamed Siad Barre, the Somali president, left At-Ta'if at 2015 at the end of a 2-day visit to the kingdom.

He was seen off by His Majesty King Khalid ibn 'Abd al-'Aziz; His Royal Highness Shaykh 'Abdullah ibn 'Abd al-'Aziz, second deputy prime minister and commander of the National Guard; His Royal Highness Shaykh Sultan ibn 'Abd al-'Aziz, minister of defense and aviation; His Royal Highness Shaykh Badr ibn 'Abd al-'Aziz, deputy commander of the National Guard; His Royal Highness Shaykh Sa'ud ibn 'Abd al-Muhsin, deputy amir of the Mecca region; and others.

SOMALI MINISTER SAYS SIAD BARRE'S TALKS 'USEFUL'

LD2422162 Riyadh SNA in Arabic 1930 GMT 24 Jul 78 LD

[Text] At-Ta'if--Omar Arteh Ghalib, Somali minister for presidential affairs, has said that the talks which Somali President Siad Barre conducted with officials in the kingdom dealt with bilateral relations, Arab issues in particular and international issues in general.

In a statement to SNA, Ghalib said that the Saudi-Somali talks had been very useful. He said that President Siad Barre's visit to the kingdom came within the framework of contacts and visits which the president is carrying out in Arab countries so that there will always be permanent contact between brothers and so that views and ideas can be exchanged on all issues affecting their bilateral relations and their Arab-Islamic relations.

The Somali minister expressed his thanks and appreciation for the warm reception and hospitality afforded the Somali delegation at the official and popular level. He said we welcome our Saudi brothers to visit Somalia.

YEMEN--PDRY

ISMA'IL EXPLAINS EVENTS LEADING UP TO RECENT COUP

LD220930Y Prague Domestic Television Service in Czech and Slovak 1800 GMT 21 Jul 78 LD

[Interview granted to correspondent Antonin Kubes in Aden by 'Abd al-Fattah Isma'il, general secretary of the United Political Organization-National Front of the People's Democratic Republic of Yemen--date not given. Questions in English, answers in Arabic, both with superimposed Czech translation; recorded]

[Text] [Question] Comrade general secretary, soon it will have been 15 years since the beginning of the glorious Yemeni revolution. Apart from celebrations, it will certainly be a suitable opportunity to appreciate the successes achieved and to draw conclusions from shortcomings or, to put it simply, to sum up the experiences and lessons from the building of a new Yemeni society. Recently, Democratic Yemen demonstrated its stability and strength. The attempt by former President Salim Rubayyi' 'Ali to stage a coup failed completely. This was another valuable experience. Could you, therefore, tell me where the roots and causes of the recent events lie and what are their consequences?

[Answer] Right at the beginning I would like to formulate the basic lesson from the latest events. It was proved that the course which our party, the United Political Organization-National Front, is carrying out on the basis of its program is completely correct and justified. Despite this, certain problems and difficulties appeared and had to be faced. Otherwise, they would have inevitably appeared both in the state of the entire society and in the conduct of both the internal and external policy of Democratic Yemen.

During the period immediately following the gaining of our independence when we defeated, through armed struggle, British colonialism, we had to ward off a threat which for the further progressive course of South Yemen represented the reactionary rightwing, which formed itself in its leadership. These people were maintaining and renewing links with the former colonizers, thus facilitating the penetration of neocolonialism into our country. This was a resolute and principled struggle, and as we liquidated colonialism so we warded off the rightwing threat within the party. On 22 June, 1969, we began a new stage in our revolution which we have described as a corrective movement.

Some time later, however, another problem emerged. Indications of leftist influences began to appear within the party. This is nothing new. Every young revolution must go through a period of what are called infant illnesses. Naturally we too, were prepared to face these deviations. The fight against leftist influences was, however, much more difficult than the fight against the right, despite the fact that in its defeat we had suffered certain losses and made sacrifices.

The rightists were an overt and visible enemy. The leftists, however, worked covertly and the fight against them was not simple. Sometimes they advocated conciliatory, soft and compromising stances, while the following day they adopted disproportionately hard, radical stances. They changed their skins quickly and often too. How great a danger this activity contained, which in effect discredited the whole party to our people, was shown by recent events.

Leftwing opportunism is no less dangerous than rightwing deviation and perhaps is even more harmful, and for this very reason it must be liquidated even more resolutely and emphatically. And this was also the fate of the leftist opportunist wing within our party, which was led by Salim Rubayyi' 'Ali. His quest for personal power led him to violate the basic laws of the functioning of our society. He rejected collective decisionmaking and later started an open, armed struggle against the entire United Political Organization-National Front and against the whole of our people's democratic system. He failed, however, thanks to the vigilance of our party, the popular masses, the armed forces and people's militia who defeated him and the entire leftist opportunist wing.

This is why we regard the course of recent events as an important success of our party, our revolution and our people. This was a milestone. Now we can work without burden. We can calmly continue our national-democratic revolution and take steps toward fulfilling the four principle tasks which we have set for this year. Out of those tasks, the most important one will be setting up our new Vanguard Party this autumn.

[Question] Because of the resoluteness with which you have confirmed your revolutionary course, you have become the target of hostile propaganda conducted by imperialist states and reactionary Arab regimes. The Arab League has (?broken off) contacts with your country, your leadership has been accused of having carried out a pro-Moscow putch and hostile troops are being concentrated along your borders. This is undoubtedly a difficult situation, and this is why I am asking you what the current international position of Democratic Yemen is?

[Answer] Simply stated, this is always the same song. It is always played as soon as a new revolutionary regime, which carries through a program of national independence and social progress is born. This is why we are not at all surprised that the hostile propaganda should claim that we are within the sphere of Moscow, that Democratic Yemen is under the tutelage of the Soviet Union and the like. Simply, the wornout record continues to be played. These lies naturally serve the aggressive interests of imperialist and reactionary forces in their struggle against the Yemeni revolution. The current propaganda campaign against our country has as its role to cover up and mask these designs of reaction.

But our enemies have probably taken on too difficult a task, for the fact is that our standpoints are completely clear. We do not hide whatsoever the fact that in the foreign-political sphere we are the firm part of the Arab revolution and the entire international revolutionary movement. We are proud that we are systematically developing close relations with friendly socialist countries headed by the Soviet Union, for it is these very countries that have extended and are extending great assistance in various areas to us. They are contributing to the strengthening of our national independence and to accelerating social progress.

I would like to return once more to the hysterical campaign of the imperialist, reactionary Arab forces against our country and people. Their propaganda is trying either to conceal or, on the other side, defend the concentration of foreign troops on various sectors of our frontier with neighboring countries. We believe that the true purpose of such concentrations of armies is to increase tension in the area and to exert military pressure against us, simply, to intimidate and blackmail us.

Apart from this, certain Arab countries have adopted a completely unlawful and unjust decision in relation to our people--the unlawful decision of the Arab League, which, as you have recalled, is a decision which violates the charter of that organization. They thus broke off political, economic and cultural contacts with us. But whatever they may do, the resolve of our peoples is a firm one and this resolve will prevail because we are not isolated as they would like us to be. On our side are revolutionaries of the national liberation movements, progressive Arab countries and all forces of revolution, freedom, progress and peace. They are jointly supporting our just struggle and this is why we shall prevail.

[Question] And one more question. Last year you visited Czechoslovakia. Your visit to our country and your talks with our representatives confirmed the friendly relations existing between our parties and between the people of both our countries. How would you characterize the future prospects of this successful cooperation?

[Answer] I must say sincerely that we were glad to visit your country which lies in the heart of Europe on the frontier dividing the world socialist system from the capitalists. We conducted cordial and very useful talks with our Czechoslovak comrades and examined the development of relations between our parties and states during our meeting with Comrade Gustav Husak. That visit resulted in further strengthening and consolidating our mutual relations. Our principled cooperation will be expanded in the future in the interest of and for the good of our common objectives and our common struggle for freedom, progress, socialism and world peace.

In closing, I would like to convey through Czechoslovak television to the Czechoslovak people, the CPCZ--that leading force in the construction of socialism in your country, and its leadership headed by Comrade Husak--a cordial greeting in the name of our Politburo and the revolutionary government. I wish you much success, and, to our bilateral relations, I wish further development and (?success).

MUHAMMAD SAYS NO WAR WITH YAR WILL OCCUR

LD242030Y Aden Domestic Service in Arabic 1900 GMT 24 Jul 78 LD/EA

[Text] Brother 'Ali Nasir Muhammad, member of the Politburo and chairman of the Presidential Council and Council of Ministers, has reaffirmed that Democratic Yemen will continue to exercise the policy of reason and logic to prevent any fighting between sons of the Yemeni people. He said: We shall stand by the Yemeni people who cannot consent to civil war.

He stressed in a press interview with the newspaper AL-ARAB AL-YAWMIYAH, which is published in London: We shall not be the first to cause the situation between the two parts of Yemen to erupt. We know that only the warmongers are enthusiastic about fighting among Yemenis and only the enemies of the Yemeni people are pushing for it.

Brother 'Ali Nasir Muhammad said that reactionary and imperialist circl feel that the reunification of Yemen would mean the establishment of one Yemeni state, strong in terms of population and natural resources, and strong, too, in its strategic position. It would also be a strong barrier against anyone attempting to undermine its national sovereignty or to interfere in its internal affairs.

He said the best proof of the hostility of the reactionary and imperialist forces toward the unity of the Yemeni people is that each time we have proceeded toward reunification with our brothers in the northern part of the homeland, these hostile forces have used their intrigues to [word indistinct] and tear the Yemeni people apart.

Brother 'Ali Nasir Muhammad added in his press interview with AL-ARAB AL-YAWMIYAH: (?When we) agreed with the martyr Ibrahim al-Hamdi on fruitful results along the road of unity and he decided to visit Aden, the reactionaries conceived and financed his assassination, which was carried out by a number of agents in a treacherous manner. These are the same forces which pressed the button for the assassination of Lieutenant Colonel al-Ghashmi in order to ignite civil war among the sons of the one Yemen and for the purpose of covering up and burying the crime of the assassination of Lt Col Ibrahim al-Hamdi.

The chairman of the Presidential Council and Council of Ministers stressed that the future belongs to the Yemeni people and their righteous forces. [Final sentence indistinct]

YEMEN--YAR

PRESIDENT SALIH GIVES INTERVIEW TO LEBANESE NEWSPAPERS

JN2419347 San'a' Domestic Service in Arabic 1200 GMT 24 Jul 78 JN

[Excerpts] The correspondent of the Lebanese papers AS-SAYYAD and AL-ANWAR has interviewed brother Lt Col 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih, president of the republic and commander in chief of the armed forces. The interview dealt with local issues from all aspects. The following is the text of the interview which started with this question:

While we congratulate Your Excellency on your election as president of the republic, succeeding the late President Ahmad Husayn al-Ghashmi, it is necessary to ask for clarifications about the internal situation in the YAR and the people's ability to absorb the shock of the assassination.

The president answered: Thank you. Regarding the internal situation in the country, since the despotic authority in Aden assassinated my brother and colleague, the late martry President Ahmad Husayn al-Ghashmi, I would like to assure you that our country enjoys security, calm and stability.

The correspondent of AS-SAYYAD and AL-ANWAR asked this question: The late President al-Ghashmi insisted on a dialog with the rulers of Aden to achieve the unity of both Yemens although he was sure that the regime in Aden leaned toward Marxism. The late president fell a martyr of his insistence. How would you evaluate the past stage of your relations with South Yemen, and what are your expectations for future relations with the rulers of Aden?

Lt Col 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih answered: It is true that the late President Ahmad Husayn al-Ghashmi was concerned about the continuation of the dialog with the rulers of the southern sector of the homeland despite his knowledge of their ideological Marxist commitment. This was because the late president believed in the unity of both Yemens and worked for the achievement of this unity through finding a common ground.

The rulers of Aden did not respond to the late president's national aim. On the contrary, these authorities conspired against Ahmad Husayn al-Ghashmi until he paid for his patriotic feelings with his life. Therefore, this crime proved that the authority in Aden does not believe in dialogs and meetings regardless of its pretentions, assurances and statements. The recent crime against the late president and other crimes have proved that this authority in Aden has adopted the path of crimes, terror, violence and bloodshed. This authority cannot go back on this path. Accordingly, it would be useless to hold a dialog with this authority.

Our people in North and South Yemen will be the judge between us and this authority. The brave people who eliminated the imam in the north and colonialism in the south will be able to impose their will and desire for unity and to finish the regime of terror and aggression. They will be capable of protecting their national achievements.

On the subject of the decision of the Arab League, the president was asked this question: The historical decision of the Arab League against the regime in Aden is thought to be changing into a mirage since the Arab League itself started contacts to reach a compromise between San'a' and Aden. This, of course, contradicts the decision made by the council of foreign ministers. What is your reaction to this, and would you accept such mediation? And has the assassination of the late preside..t severed all contacts with the rulers of Aden?

The president's reply was: I mentioned earlier that the path of the authorities in Aden is one of treason, terror and conspiracies. These authorities do not appreciate any dialog or fraternal compromise. Since things reached the point of assassinating the late president, it is only natural that we have no intention of any dialog or meetings with these authorities or with any of their respresentatives.

The final question of the correspondent of AL-ANWAR and AS-SAYYAD was: Has what recently occurred in Yemen, whether in San'a' or Aden, affected the YAR's role on both Arab and world levels, especially since the strategic location of the YAR has imposed historical responsibilities on it to preserve the Arabism of the Red Sea and the Strait of Bab el-Mandeb?

The president said in this respect: What happened in Yemen is considered part of the chain of designs aimed at involving the country in world conflicts that will not benefit us. The crime of the assassination and the events of internal conflict between lines of authority in Aden fall under the topic of foreign intrigue to spark off civil war in the area. Such war will serve interests which contradict our goals and national interests. It will not only jeopardize this area but also the whole Arab world, especially the Arabian Peninsula and the gulf. This design uses the ruling authorities in Aden, who are tools for intrigues and conspiracies. All our brothers must be alert to the designs and conspiracies in the area. Our brothers must adopt a unanimous stand to confront the danger. Thank you.

AN-NAHAR Interview

JN2415l1Y Manama GULF NEWS AGENCY in Arabic 1358 GMT 24 Jul 78 JN

[Text] Beirut, 24 July--YAR President 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih has stressed that this country's stand toward the issue of Red Sea security is a firm stand which stems from a concern to have this sea become an area of peace and security removed from any foreign intervention or greed, whatever its origin or kind.

In an interview with the Lebanese newspaper AN-NAHAR, published today, Salih added that the YAR will continue to exert all possible efforts in cooperation with Red Sea countries to achieve this objective.

Speaking about the Lebanese crisis, President 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih voiced his country's anxiety concerning the Lebanese conflict. He expressed the hope that this conflict will be settled as a result of the awareness of the Lebanese and all Arabs of the dangers to all the parties if it continues. Salih said the Zionist enemy is the main beneficiary of Lebanese events. The Zionist enemy continues to feed the conflict and keep it alive, while the Lebanese and Arabs continue to lose from the continuation of the conflict among the Lebanese brothers.

The YAR president denied that, during his recent visit to San'a', Syrian Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Foreign Affairs 'Abd al-Halim Khaddam had offered to mediate between San'a' and Aden. President Salih added that his country's position on this subject is clear. No mediation or dialog is possible as the crime of assassination against the late President Ahmad Husayn al-Ghashmi is not a simple matter. Salih said that Khaddam had stressed his country's condemnation of the crime.

Discussing relations between the YAR and Saudi Arabia, Salih stated that these relations are solid relations of brotherhood and neighborliness based on mutual respect, trust and appreciation. These relations will continue as the two countries are bound by one destiny and one religion.

SALIH SAYS NO MEDIATION, NO DIALOG WITH PDRY

JN241952Y San'a' Domestic Service in Arabic 1700 GMT 24 Jul 78 JN

[Excerpts] Brother Lt Col 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih, president and commander in chief of the armed forces, received in the guest palace this morning the heads of Arab and foreign diplomatic missions accredited in San'a' who came to offer their congratulations on his election as president and commander in chief of the armed forces.

Speaking to the Arab and foreign diplomats, the brother president and commander said: I welcome you warmly and thank each one of you for your condolences on the loss of the martyr of the homeland and people, the late President Ahmad Husayn al-Ghashmi. I also thank your fraternal and friendly governments for their understanding of the gravity of the crime perpetrated by the Aden government against the safety and dignity of our people by masterminding the assassination of the late president, constantly exporting troubles to our territory, running sabotage camps, disrupting security and wasting lives.

The brother president said: I ask you to affirm to your governments that we are not advocates of war and we are not aggressors. We are advocates of peace and we are the ones against whom an act of aggression has been committed. We have no troop concentrations against our neighbors. Only bonds of amity, respect, mutual confidence and sincere desire to develop our societies link us with our brethren in the Arabian Peninsula and the gulf. Be assured that the concentrations are facing us and, hence, we will not hesitate to request an Arab committee to discover the truth.

We do not need Arab or non-Arab mediation. What is more important is that a dialog cannot be conducted except with responsible regimes which respect themselves and their charters as well as the norms of interstate dealings. These are not available in the Aden regime.

The brother president added: Imagine, how can there be mediation with a state which plotted and perpetrated the crime of assassinating the president of a fraternal state which harbors for it nothing but amicable and brotherly sentiments, and extends to it direct and indirect aid and facilities in the service of its citizens, security and safety?

The brother president and commander in chief of the armed forces said: Our domestic state of affairs is stable and our national unity is strong. All fraternal and friendly states support us and completely understand the truth of our good intentions, defensive positions and independent policy.

The brother president added: Our foreign policy will remain committed to the charters of the Arab League and the United Nations, the just Palestinian struggle, the restoration of occupied Arab territories, the efforts to strengthen Arab solidarity and close cooperation with all the brothers and friends.

Concluding his speech, the brother president said: We call on your governments to further cooperate with us in various fields. I call on you personally to convey a clear picture to officials in your countries. In brief, we do not seek war, but we do not accept aggression. There will be no dialog with Aden under any pretext or justification. We will strongly retaliate against any aggression. We believe that the resolutions of the Arab League Council are sufficient to restore the Aden rulers to their senses, Arabism and Islam.

Please convey my greetings to the officials in your countries. Thank you again.

The meeting was attended by brother Foreign Minister 'Abdallah al-Asnaj; Lt Col (?Mustafa al-Janabi), director of the President's Office; and Ibrahim (?al-Qudsi), Foreign Ministry under secretary.

SALIH ADDRESSES MESSAGE TO BELGRADE NONALINED CONFERENCE

JN241802Y San'a' Domestic Service in Arabic 1700 GMT 24 Jul 78 JN

[Text] Brother President Lt Col 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih has addressed a message to the nonalined foreign ministers conference. The text of the message is as follows:

Conference of the foreign ministers of the nonalined countries, Belgrade: It gives me pleasure to convey to you on behalf of the YAR Government and people and in my own name sincerest wishes for the success of your conference in its search for solutions to international problems in the current difficult international circumstances.

I would like to stress the urgent necessity of focusing your attention on the need to find means to put an end to the various violations of the principles of nonalinement so that the efforts of the international community will have the chance to realize world peace, security and social and economic progress.

I hope that the prominent role played by the nonalined countries will contribute to international detente and to ending the conflicts and rivalries among the big states which are taking place in many parts of the world at the expense of the Third World.

[Signed] Lt Col 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih, president and commander in chief of the armed forces.

SALIH RECEIVES MESSAGES FROM IRAQ'S AL-BAKR, HUSAYN

JN241937Y San'a' Domestic Service in Arabic 1700 GMT 24 Jul 78 JN

[Text] Brother Lt Col 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih, president and commander in chief of the armed forces, received in his office in the presidency at 1800 today 'Adnan Husayn al-Hamadi member of the Revolution Command Council and minister of planning in Iraq, and 'Abd al-Husayn al-Jamali, Iraqi Foreign Ministry under secretary, who arrived in San'a' this morning.

The Iraqi officials conveyed to the brother president two messages from his brothers, His Excellency President Ahmad Hasan al-Bakr and Saddam Husayn, vice chairman of the Revolution Command Council in Iraq. The SABA' NEWS AGENCY has learned that the two messages dealt with the situation in the area and relations between the two fraternal countries.

The SABA' NEWS AGENCY also learned that during the meeting, the Iraqi delegation expressed Iraq's denunciation of the crime which violated international law and which led to the death of the late President Ahmad Husayn al-Ghashmi. The delegation said that the crime was unprecedented in history.

The meeting was attended by brothers Muhammad Ahmad al-Junayd, deputy prime minister for financial and economic affairs and finance minister; Lt Col (?Mustafa al-Janabi), director of the President's Office; Iraqi Ambassador in San'a' His Excellency Taha Yasin al-'Ali; Ibrahim (?al-Qudsi), Foreign Ministry under secretary; and YAR Ambassador in Baghdad Ghalib 'Ali Jamil.

OFFICIAL LEAVES FOR NONALINED CONFERENCE

JN211335Y San'a' Domestic Service in Arabic 1200 GMT 21 Jul 78 JN

[Text] Brother 'Abdallah Humran, special envoy of our brother president, left San'a' early this morning for Yugoslavia where he will represent the YAR at the nonalined foreign ministers conference as the delegate of brother 'Abdallah al-Asnaj, minister of foreign affairs.

In a statement to the SABA' NEWS AGENCY, brother Humran said that the conference will discuss measures submitted by the various participating countries, on the basis of which the general conference will adopt resolutions to (?serve) the principles of neutrality and nonalinement.

Brother Humran also stated that he will deliver the YAR speech which puts forward the YAR's views on several issues that, in principle, serve justice, right and peace and the ends of neutrality and nonalinement.

MUBARAK: NO TRUTH IN ISRAELI REPORTS ON MEETINGS

NC2414122Y Cairo MENA in Arabic 1325 GMT 24 Jul 78 NC

[Text] Paris, 24 July--Egyptian Vice President Husni Mubarak has denied a report released by Israel that there will be a meeting of Egyptian-Israeli foreign and defense ministers.

The Egyptian vice president affirmed that there is no truth in the report released by Israel nor in the report released by Israeli Prime Minister Menahem Begin that there will be an Egyptian-Israeli summit meeting.

The Egyptian vice president affirmed that Egypt is ready for any meeting and for continuing the discussions if Israel comes up with anything new. He said that Egypt is always ready for peace if Israel shows the same desire. He added: The establishment of peace, as President as-Sadat had said, requires no more than a few hours, after which a peace agreement can be signed. He said that all this depends on Israel.

Mubarak revealed this in a statement today after a 2-hour meeting with French President Valery Giscard d'Estaing.

Husni Mubarak emphasized Egypt's firm stand: rejection of Israeli sovereignty over Arab land, and rejection of Israeli pretexts on security and the seizure of territories by force. The vice president pointed out that President as-Sadat has clearly affirmed more than once that Egypt is ready to discuss all the requisites of peace and that we are ready to establish "good neighbor" relations and all that pertains to good neighborliness, as emphasized by international law in this regard.

Mubarak said: We are prepared to discuss all this but we reject Israeli sovereignty on Arab territories and reject the annexation of land by force.

Asked whether an Israeli Cabinet shuffle would facilitate the peace process, Husni Mubarak said: "If Israel comes up with anything new regarding peace, then we will be ready for it, whether it comes from the present cabinet or another one." He said: We do not want to interfere in Israel's domestic affairs and we have nothing to do with Israel's domestic problems.

On his discussions today with French President Giscard d'Estaing, Mubarak said that the discussions touched on the recent developments in the Middle East problem in light of President as-Sadat's discussions in Salzburg, the outcome of the tripartite Leeds Castle conference and the discussions which took place at that conference. Husni Mubarak affirmed that the French position on the question of the Middle East and peace in the area is firm and has not changed. He said that France stands by a just peace.

The vice president said that the discussions also dealt with their bilateral relations. Asked whether he had discussed the situation in Africa with the French president, Mubarak said that the discussions had touched on this subject.

Asked about reports on the possibility of a meeting between Egypt, Israel and the United States in Sinai in August, Mubarak said: I have not heard anything about this subject.

Husni Mubarak met with President Giscard d'Estaing for 2 hours today during a working lunch at the Elysee Palace. Mubarak arrived in Paris yesterday in the course of a tour of France, Morocco and Iran. He leaves Paris for Morocco tomorrow.

EGYPT REJECTS LETTER FROM ISRAELI PRIME MINISTER

NC2423085Y Cairo MENA in Arabic 2255 GMT 24 Jul 78 NC

[Text] Cairo, 24 July--In Tuesday's issue the newspaper AL-AHRAM reports that Egypt has declined to receive a letter which arrived at a late hour yesterday evening from Israeli Prime Minister Menahem Begin. Begin had said that he would send a letter to Egypt asking for a high-level meeting to be held between Egyptian and Israeli officials at the time when he repeated his well-known negative stands.

Quoting an official source, the paper says that Begin's letter is a mere repetition of what Israel has been declaring in the past few days, and therefore it is not considered to be a letter in the formal sense.

MENA QUOTES ISRAELI RADIO ON AS-SADAT-BEGIN INTERVIEW

NC2420022Y Cairo MENA in Arabic 1940 GMT 24 Jul 78 NC

[Text] Cairo, 24 July--The Israeli radio reported today that President as-Sadat has refused to take part with Israeli Prime Minister Menahem Begin in a joint interview with the U.S. television network NBC. The interview was scheduled to take place simultaneously in Cairo and Jerusalem today.

The radio said that Begin had agreed to the joint interview, but President as-Sadat this morning announced his rejection of the idea of a joint meeting. Therefore, the U.S. television network decided to broadcast the statements of President as-Sadat and Begin separately.

AL-AHRAM CRITICIZES BEGIN'S 'ARROGANT' POLICY

NC250725Y Cairo Domestic Service in Arabic 0600 GMT 25 Jul 78 NC

[From the press review]

[Text] The newspaper AL-AHRAM denounces Israeli Prime Minister Menahem Begin's arrogant policy. AL-AHRAM says: When Menahem Begin came to the seat of power, after remaining far from it for several years, his sick dreams made him believe that he could achieve as prime minister the same thing he was able to achieve through terrorism. He imagined that he could impose hegemony and expansion, usurp the land and violate the sovereignty of others.

Begin continued to follow this course until the dawning of As-Sadat's peace initiative. This initiative came in the wake of Egyptian, Arab and international developments. The initiative came in the wake of the October War, which had disproved Israel's security theory and destroyed the myth about the invincibility of the Israeli army.

From the podium of the Knesset and before the representatives of the Israeli people, As-Sadat affirmed Egypt's principled stand. This stand is that Egypt wants a just peace based on the implementation of Security Council Resolution 242 on all the fronts, Israel's complete withdrawal and safeguarding the Palestinian people's rights. In return for that, Israel's presence and existence will be legitimized.

A series of talks then began in Jerusalem, Cairo and other capitals. Cairo's position remained consistent--security for us and for everyone, peace for us and for everyone but with no relinquishing of territory of sovereignty.

The whole world testified to the soundness of Egypt's position. The day before yesterday Begin gave himself away on the American television networks. He reiterated that he rejects the principle of Israel's withdrawal from the West Bank and Gaza. His cabinet also issued a decision rejecting 'Ezer Weizman's proposal to return Al-'Arish to Egyptian administration.

Begin imagines that he can wreck the peace initiative with such methods. His sick fantasies also make him believe that he can snatch major concessions from Egypt. With such an expansionist, fascist policy the Israeli prime minister will achieve nothing.

AL-JUMHURIYAH COMMENTS ON AL-'ARISH ISSUE

NC240708Y Cairo Domestic Service in Arabic 0525 GMT 24 Jul 78 NC

[From the press review]

[Text] In its editorial today the newspaper AL-JUMHURIYAH comments on the wide-scale reaction which President as-Sadat's speech has provoked in Israel. The newspaper says: The Israeli information services yesterday showed great interest in President as-Sadat's speech on the 26th anniversary of the 23 July Revolution. President as-Sadat said that there is no obstacle in the path of peace, that peace can be achieved in a matter of hours, and that the Israeli prime minister is the only obstacle to peace.

Israeli newspapers also carried several commentaries on what they call "conceding" Al-'Arish, capital of occupied and Egyptian Sinai. Some newspapers said that some Israeli officials support this withdrawal in return for what these newspapers call conclusion of an agreement on the Israeli settlements and airfields in northern Sinai.

AL-JUMHURIYAH says: It is no secret that diplomacy is a process of mutual concessions. It is also no secret that the Israelis, who have long experience in diplomacy, realize that the Arabs' agreement to negotiate with Israel and to recognize it and provide it with guarantees are in themselves concessions. The Arabs have made these concessions for the sake of peace and in order to stop bloodshed. As for conceding our land and sovereignty, it is no and a thousand times no, as President as-Sadat said.

STATE MINISTER GHALI RETURNS FROM KHARTOUM

NC231227Y Cairo MENA in Arabic 1048 GMT 23 Jul 78 NC

[Text] Cairo, 23 July--Minister of State for Foreign Affairs Dr Butrus Butrus Ghali returned to Cairo early this morning from Khartoum, where he headed the Egyptian delegation to the African foreign ministers conference from 7 to 18 July. He also headed the Egyptian delegation to the African summit conference after President as-Sadat's departure. The summit conference began on 18 July and lasted 5 days.

Discusses African Summit

NC241906Y Cairo MENA in Arabic 1733 GMT 24 Jul 78 NC

[Text] Cairo, 24 July--Minister of State for Foreign Affairs Dr Butrus Ghali has stated that the basic positive result of the 15th African summit conference, which was held in Khartoum from 17 to 21 July, is the drawing of the attention of the African public to a new danger threatening the continent. This danger is the foreign interference in Africa, which is no less dangerous than traditional colonialism.

He said that the corrective revolution which took place on the glorious 15 May is an assertion of the principles of democracy, the state of institutions, the supremacy of the law and the freedom of the press. It has also opened the door to the practice of democracy leading to the establishment of political parties and the achievement of the glorious October victory, he concluded.

EGYPTIAN, YUGOSLAV OFFICIALS HOLD TALKS

JN221832Y Cairo MENA in Arabic 1810 GMT 22 Jul 78 JN

[Text] Belgrade, 22 July--'Ismat 'Abd al-Majid, Egyptian permanent delegate to the United Nations, who is currently visiting Yugoslavia, has met with Yugoslav Foreign Secretariat Under Secretary Loncar. During the meeting, they discussed the Middle East problem and the role of the nonalined countries as well as several African issues.

The MENA correspondent has learned that the Egyptian delegation to the conference of the foreign ministers of the nonalined states, which will begin next Tuesday, will sponser the draft document which will be submitted by Yugoslavia to the conference. The document deals with all issues related to the nonalined states and with international problems of special significance. The document consists of 70 pages and has been distributed to all nonalined states.

The MENA correspondent has also learned that the part of the document dealing with the Middle East problem contains a strong condemnation of Israeli policy and support for the Arab (?position). The document calls for a just and lasting solution of the Middle East crisis on the basis of the Israeli withdrawal from all the occupied Arab areas and the guaranteeing of the legitimate rights of the Palestinians. The document also expresses its extreme denunciation of Israeli policy.

Dr 'Abd al-Majid arrived in Belgrade the day before yesterday to head the Egyptian delegation at the meetings of the preparatory committee of the conference of the foreign ministers of the nonalined countries which will begin in the Yugoslav capital today.

PROSECUTOR RESUMES INTERROGATION OF HAYKAL

NC241614Y Cairo MENA in Arabic 1350 GMT 24 Jul 78 NC

[Text] Cairo, 24 July--The socialist public prosecutor, Justice Anwar Habib, today resumed the interrogation of former AL-AHRAM chief editor Muhammad Hasanayn Haykal concerning the articles that he had published in Arab and foreign newspapers which have a bearing on Egypt's reputation abroad.

Haykal's lawyers, Ibrahim Dhikri and Husayn ash-Sharqawi, the secretary general of the Journalists Association who is representing the association, attended today's session.

POST OF PRIME MINISTER WILL NOT BE ABOLISHED

NC240909Y Cairo MENA in Arabic 0845 GMT 24 Jul 78 NC

[Text] Cairo, 24 July--The newspaper AL-JUMHURIYAH says that the constitution will not be amended as far as the republican parliamentary system in Egypt is concerned and that the post of prime minister will not be abolished.

Dr Butrus Ghali said this in a statement to the MENA representative. He was commenting on the African summit conference resolutions. He said that if the OAU can perpetuate the policy of nonalinement, stand firm in the face of foreign presence in Africa, have military forces within the framework of the OAU and lay down the rules of collective security for Africa, then it will be able to surmount this new danger as it was able to overcome traditional colonialism throughout the last 15 years.

Dr Ghali pointed out in his statement that if the OAU does not succeed in taking these steps, then the fate of Africa will be similar to the fate of Europe--that of division and separation.

In his statement Dr Ghali emphasized that the African public supports the Arab world and the Palestinian rights. Even though there are some states which support the peace initiative and are enthusiastic about it; there is also an African minority which does not express its opinion and a third group which has special relations with the rejectionist front.

The minister of state for foreign affairs added that the phenomenon which became clear during the conference for the first time in 15 years is the conference's discussion of the Soviet-Cuban presence in the African Continent. He asserted that the mediation committees--which the conference decided should continue with their work to settle African disputes, such as the Ethiopian-Somali, the Ethiopian-Sudanese, Chadian-Libyan disputes--are necessary because their presence constitutes an attempt to prevent the expansion of the disputes, of foreign interference and the internationalization of these African disputes.

Dr Ghali concluded his statement by describing some of the discussions that took place at the conference as having been of a high level of maturity, objectivity and political astuteness, such as that of Senegalese President Leopold Senghor and Guinean President Ahmed Sekiou Toure, while other discussions were characterized by mental backwardness and emotionalism.

NATIONAL SECURITY COUNCIL EMERGENCY MEETING CALLED

NC2423200Y Cairo MENA in Arabic 2310 GMT 24 Jul 78 NC

[Excerpt] Cairo, 24 July--In Tuesday's issue the newspaper AL-AHRAM reports that President Anwar as-Sadat has called an emergency meeting of the National Security Council for Wednesday morning in Alexandria.

The paper says that President as-Sadat will acquaint the council with the results of the Vienna talks and of the tripartite Leeds Castle conference and the preparations for the talks with U.S. Secretary of State Cyrus Vance and U.S. Middle East roving ambassador Alfred Atherton.

AS-SADAT MEETS WITH FREE OFFICERS DELEGATION

NC2308000Y Cairo Domestic Service in Arabic 0600 GMT 23 Jul 78 NC

[Text] President Muhammad Anwar as-Sadat met with a delegation of free officers yesterday on the 26th anniversary of the 23 July Revolution.

Mustafa Kamil Murad delivered a speech on behalf of the free officers, greeting President as-Sadat and asserting that the revolution has laid down the foundations of socialism and social justice in fulfillment of the Egyptian people's aspirations.

ALEXANDRIA UNIVERSITY CELEBRATION POSTPONED

NC2322287 Cairo MENA in Arabic 2214 GMT 23 Jul 78 NC

[Text] Cairo, 23 July--MENA had learned that Alexandria University's celebration of the 23 July Revolution anniversary has been postponed from Wednesday, 23 July, until Thursday, 27 July.

RULING PARTY TO DEFINE STAND ON NEW AS-SADAT PARTY

NC2315367 Doha QNA in Arabic 1512 GMT 23 Jul 78 NC

[Text] Cairo, 23 July--The weekly Cairo newspaper AS-SIYASI reports today that at its forthcoming meetings the ruling Arab Socialist Party of Egypt will define its final stand regarding the new party to be headed by President Anwar as-Sadat. The Arab Socialist Party of Egypt has considered the president as its own leader from the first day of its formation.

The paper says that the party which President as-Sadat will form would not be the only new party since other parties will be formed in the next few months. The paper denied press reports recently that the Egyptian Cabinet would be shuffled.

AL-AHAD COMMENTS ON FORMATION OF NEW PARTY

NC2309037 Cairo MENA in Arabic 0845 GMT 23 Jul 78 NC

[Text] Cairo, 23 July--The newspaper AL-AHAD says today that President Anwar as-Sadat will begin the formation of the new party in August and will submit an application to the Parties Committee, which is attached to the Central Committee, for approval of the new party, for which no name has yet been chosen.

The paper adds that it has learned that the formation of the party, the drafting of its program and the steps related to political activity will all be done before the next parliamentary session, which opens in October. All these steps will be taken gradually, one by one.

ARMS, NARCOTICS SEIZED IN ASYUT GOVERNORATE

NC2307247 Cairo Domestic Service in Arabic 0600 GMT 23 Jul 78 NC

[Text] The central security forces have launched a campaign in Asyut Governorate and have seized 8,725 unlicensed weapons in villages throughout Asyut Governorate. The weapons were in the possession of outlaws and members of feuding families. Tobacco, hashish and opium planted in scattered small areas--totalling 50 feddans--among large areas planted with various types of crops on the banks of the Nile and in remote areas have also been seized.

The security forces have also arrested 400 dangerous persons with criminal records. The campaign is carried out in implementation of the policy drawn up by the interior minister to crush criminal cells and tighten police control over areas throughout all governorates where there is lack of security.

The security forces will launch similar campaigns in various areas where there is lack of security in order to insure security and safety for the citizens.

BA'TH PARTY DELEGATION LEAVES BAGHDAD FOR HAVANA

JN240828Y Baghdad INA in Arabic 0725 GMT 24 Jul 78 JN

[Text] Baghdad, 24 July--The Arab Socialist Ba'th Party delegation led by Na'im Haddad, National Command member, left for Havana this morning to participate in the celebrations of the Cuban national day.

In a statement prior to his departure, Haddad said that he will participate in Cuba's celebrations of the anniversary marking the start of the revolution under President Fidel Castro. This visit, he said, results from the developed relations between Iraq and Cuba. He added that he carries the greetings of President Ahmad Hasan al-Bakr, Saddam Husayn, the Arab Socialist Ba'th Party Command, the 17 July Revolution and the Iraqi masses to Dr Fidel Castro, the Cuban revolution, the Cuban Communist Party and the friendly struggling Cuban people.

Haddad described the outbreak of the Cuban revolution on 26 July 1953 under President Fidel Castro against the reactionary regime of Batista as the beginning of the Cuban people's heroic struggle against American imperialism and as the beginning of the Cuban people's struggle to secure their final independence and achieve social progress. He further said that this revolution has demonstrated that the path of armed revolutionary struggle is the only way to liberate peoples and achieve victory over their enemies. It is also the same path which the Arab Socialist Ba'th Party believes is proper to liberate Palestine and restore the rights of the Palestinian Arab people.

Haddad praised the principled stands of the Cuban revolution under President Castro toward the Palestinian cause as demonstrated by its support for the Palestinian Arab people's struggle, its condemnation of the Zionist aggression, and its backing of the issues of Arab struggle and the Arab nation's struggle for liberation, progress and pan-Arab unity.

He added that relations between the revolutions in Iraq and Cuba have witnessed constant growth, especially after President Castro's visit to Baghdad and his meeting with President Ahmad Hasan al-Bakr and comrade struggler Saddam Husayn, vice chairman of the Revolution Command Council. During this period, he said, relations have assumed new advanced positions exemplified by the development of official and party relations, the exchange of delegations and the signing of several economic and cultural agreements.

The delegation includes Latif Nasif Jasim, minister of agriculture and agrarian reform.

FOREIGN MINISTER HAMMADI ON BELGRADE CONFERENCE

JN221614Y Baghdad INA in English 1500 GMT 22 Jul 78 JN

[Text] Baghdad, 22 July--Iraqi Foreign Minister Dr Sa'dun Hammadi has called for an Arab consensus towards the Palestine question--the central Arab cause--during the forthcoming conference of non-aligned foreign ministers due to open in Belgrade next Tuesday.

He said Iraq will work in close cooperation with other Arab countries to discuss the question of the Arab-Zionist conflict. Iraq, Dr. Hammadi said, is of the opinion that Arab countries should take a unified stance at the conference as they did at the non-aligned summit conference in Colombo in 1976. This was stated by Dr. Hammadi in a statement to INA here today.

Dr. Hammadi said the Iraqi Foreign Ministry has made intensive contacts with Arab countries to formulate a unified stance on the basis of complete and non-conditional withdrawal from the occupied Arab lands and affirmation of the national rights of the Palestinian Arab people to their homeland.

The Iraqi delegation to Belgrade conference, he said, will call for avoiding the inter-Arab differences and stressing the issues where Arab consensus exists. Dr. Hammadi recalled that the non-aligned movement had issued many decisions concerning the Palestine question in which it stressed the justness of the demand for a complete withdrawal of the Zionist troops from the occupied Arab lands and the inalienable rights of the Palestinian Arab people and condemned the Zionist terror in the occupied Arab lands.

Dr. Hammadi warned of the gravity of the American threats to interfere in the Arab Gulf area, saying that Iraq will attract the attention of the world public opinion to these threats. He said this comes within the objectives of the non-aligned movement based on the principle of respect of sovereignty, non-interference in the internal affairs of other states and the adoption of independent policy at the international level.

Iraq, he said, will also raise the question of strengthening the non-aligned movement, recalling in this respect that Iraq had presented a number of notes to the non-aligned coordinating bureau. Dr. Hammadi stressed the need to scrutinize the new applications for joining the non-aligned movement.

He also called for increasing economic cooperation between the non-aligned countries on the basis of mutual interests and increasing contacts at the popular levels. The foreign minister called for founding specialized organizations for raw materials producing countries similar to the organization of petroleum exporting countries--OPEC. He said that formation of such organizations would strengthen these countries at international markets and eliminate the present imbalance in the international trade exchange which is in favour of industrialized countries at the expense of raw materials exporting countries.

Referring to the Indian Ocean, Dr. Hammadi said the first step towards declaring the Indian Ocean a [nuclear] free zone would be through elimination of military bases from the region. He added that this goal has not been achieved yet despite bilateral talks between the United States and the Soviet Union and because non-alignment movement, which is mainly responsible for this question, was not briefed on details of these talks.

Dr. Hammadi further said that Iraq supported Cuba in calling for the next summit of non-aligned countries and views that it is in the general interest of the non-aligned group to bring to success this summit with all means. He added that Iraq will renew a call for holding the next summit, after the Havana summit, in Baghdad during the Belgrade meeting.

Dr. Hammadi extolled the Yugoslav Government for hosting the ministerial conference and urged for exerting efforts for the conference's success. Yugoslavia is known for its enthusiasm in founding the non-alignment movement, Dr. Hammadi concluded.

U.S. ENVOY ATHERTON ARRIVES, MAKES STATEMENT

JN2411124Y Amman Domestic Service in Arabic 1100 GMT 24 Jul 78 JN

[Text] The U.S. envoy to the Middle East, Alfred Atherton, arrived in Amman at noon today on a visit to Jordan, during which he will meet with high-ranking officials. In a statement on arrival Atherton said that U.S. Secretary of State Cyrus Vance had asked him to visit the area as soon as possible following the Middle East talks in Leeds so as to brief His Majesty King Husayn on the importance of these talks and also to listen to his majesty's opinions re[illegible]ng this subject and then convey them to U.S. President Jimmy Carter and the secretary of state.

He added that he will discuss with His Majesty King Husayn the means to continue the peace efforts. He said that the United States is interested in discussing all points pertaining to the Middle East issue. The United States will make every effort to achieve a comprehensive settlement in the area, he added.

He was received at Amman airport by Saki al-Qusus, Foreign Ministry secretary general; the acting chief of protocol and the U.S. charge d'affaires in Amman.

PRIME MINISTER BADRAN REPLIES TO NCC MEMBERS

JN2416241Y Amman Domestic Service in Arabic 1500 GMT 24 Jul 78 JN

[Excerpts] Prime Minister Mudar Badran today presented the government's reply to the statements and remarks made by the members of the National Consultative Council [NCC] in the course of a discussion of statements made by the ministers on the activities of their ministries.

Mr Badran announced that the successful implementation of the objectives of the 5-year development plan was reassuring. Overall local production increased in the first 2 years of the plan, 1976 and 1977, at a rate of 10-11 percent annually.

Speaking about the measures taken by the government to combat the high cost of living, the prime minister said that these measures tackled the real cause of rising prices, inflation. They succeeded in reducing the rate of rising prices to 9 percent, after it had reached about 20 percent in the past. He said that the high cost of living cannot be controlled except by developing local industry and production, which is the basic objective of the government.

In his statement the prime minister spoke about measures taken by the government to bring about a fair and equitable distribution of the gains of the development plans among the various sectors of society on the one hand and among the various parts of the kingdom on the other. He said: In view of the importance of having accurate information about the population and its geographic and demographic distribution, the government has decided to carry out a population census in November 1979.

The prime minister said that the government has begun a study of the income tax law. He hoped that the NCC will form a committee to study the laws regarding landlords and tenants.

The prime minister said that the government is preparing a project for the local administration law, giving administrative governors the authority of supervising local executive departments assisted by a local council which represents official departments and the citizens.

The governorates will have independent budgets for their projects, which will be part of the state budget.

Mr Badran affirmed that there is not a single political detainee in Jordan. The government believes in the freedom of the press. The press in Jordan is completely free within the context of the law. The prime minister affirmed that the government will cooperate sincerely and faithfully with the NCC on all well-studied and constructive proposals which are submitted to the government in the spirit of responsibility which has characterized previous debates.

NEW ARAB STRATEGY AGAINST ISRAEL URGED

JN241725Y Amman Domestic Service in Arabic 1500 GMT 24 Jul 78 JN

[Unattributed commentary]

[Text] Preceding his next scheduled visit to the Middle East, the American secretary of state yesterday asked Israel to accept the principle of withdrawal from the West Bank and Gaza, noting that UN Resolution 242 calls for withdrawal from all fronts, including the West Bank and Gaza. This particular point is the subject of sharp difference between the United States and Israel. It is also the main point of difference between Egypt and Israel.

In an indirect reply to the Vance statement, the Israeli foreign minister said in a statement that Israel rejects the principle of negotiation over the West Bank and Gaza to make slight adjustments to the 1967 borders, but that it will consider any proposals containing a compromise territorial settlement.

On another topic, Menahem Begin yesterday rejected the Egyptian proposal calling for the return of Al-'Arish. He said that Israel does not give something without anything in return. In the current negotiations and dialog between Egypt and Israel, Egypt proposed a six-point security plan calling for the establishment of demilitarized zones, reduction of forces, establishment of early-warning stations, deployment of UN forces and establishment of neighborly relations. Israel replied to this proposal by saying that it will not return to the 1967 borders and will not accept slight adjustments even if given all these guarantees, plus international guarantees.

This is the equation now posed in the Egyptian-Israeli dialog, or rather this is one of the main aspects of the equation. The Arabs see slight adjustments to the 1967 borders for security reasons and under international guarantees for both sides, while Israel is seeking slight adjustments to the territory it has occupied since 1967 under Israeli security arrangements guaranteeing the security of one side and sacrificing the sovereignty of the other side.

Therefore, the option now is chosing between complete occupation of the territory and partial but permanent occupation. We are being asked to legitimize the occupation through political settlement and to disavow the principle of the Palestinians' sovereignty over their land and right to self-determination.

One who has followed political events and Israeli stands since 1967 does not see any difference at all in substance between the position of the present Israeli Government and the position of the previous Labor governments, especially with regard to the West Bank and Gaza.

After 1973 Israel accepted the principle of disengagement and partial withdrawal from Sinai. It accepted it also in the Golan. But it refused even symbolic withdrawal on the West Bank front. Yitzhaq Rabin and Shim'on Peres, who are bewailing the peace prospects being wasted by Begin, refused the principle of withdrawal of even one kilometer on the West Bank. They insisted on proceeding with the establishment of military and civilian settlements all along the Jordan Valley. The Begin government has not done anything different from that. We do not think that the ruling or opposition parties in Israel differ much in their positions on this subject.

The outcome of all this is that the path toward a solution of the Palestinian question is still closed. Menahem Begin has made it a point to close this path for good with his alleged self-rule plan, which the West Bank and Gaza residents jokingly termed the occupation plan. The path toward a solution of the Golan is also closed, because there, too, Israel wants slight cosmetic adjustments to the occupation situation. Syria believes that it is better to reject surrender than to make the Golan an object of compromise over Arab rights.

The only path with prospects is the Sinai path, or Egypt's path, outside the framework of the Arab nation. But President as-Sadat's speech yesterday blocked all these prospects when he said that Egypt rejects any separate solution. The outcome of all this, therefore, is the continuation of the state of no peace and the inability to wage war on the Arab side under the umbrella of the negotiations. This is even worse than the previous state of no peace, no war. Previously, the possibility of an Arab confrontation existed, but in the present state of no peace and the inability to wage war, the Arabs are losing their options daily.

We do not doubt for a single moment that by embarking on his initiative President as-Sadat succeeded in exposing the Israeli stand before the world public, and the American public in particular. He has indeed achieved what Arab and friendly propaganda could not achieve through the long period of confrontation with Israel. But Egypt's absence from the Arab fold and its unilateral action in conducting the negotiations with Israel have left deep wounds in the Arab world, which increased Arab frustrations, entrenched Arab divisions and increased Israel's ability to enforce its political will and procrastinate in the peace talks.

Therefore, Egypt's return to the Arab fold as the vanguard of the Arab community, and curbing Israel's attempt to hold the land and at the same time have peace, security and military supremacy over the Arabs, must be the pivot of the alternative Arab strategy to the situation now existing in the Arab world. President as-Sadat has succeeded in shortening the time of Israeli lies. It now behooves us to shorten the time of political delusion by returning to ourselves, our resources and the status of our nation in today's world. Can we do that?

MILITARY EXERCISES IN AREA LIKE WEST BANK

JN2416355Y Amman JNA in Arabic 1530 GMT 24 Jul 78 JN

[Text] Amman, 24 July--A Jordanian Armed Forces formation this morning completed an exercise with live ammunition in a geographic area similar in topography to that of the occupied West Bank. Support and logistics elements participated in the exercise. The exercise, which lasted several days, included lessons on defensive operations, interception, occupation of fortified positions, counteroffensive operations, night operations and operations to liberate populated occupied cities. The exercise is part of the annual training plan of Jordanian Armed Forces formations.

VOICE OF LEBANON REPORTS SNIPING IN AL-HADATH

NC241200Y Voice of Lebanon [Clandestine] in Arabic to Lebanon 1115 GMT 24 Jul 78 NC

[Text] The Voice of Lebanon has learned that the Saint Theresa Hospital in Al-Hadath is no longer adequate for the admission or treatment of patients. The Saint George Hospital on the old Sidon road has been turned into a military barracks for the Arab Deterrent Forces.

Al-Hadath is still surrounded by the Arab Deterrent Forces and there is sniper fire in all areas of the township. The sniper fire is preventing any kind of movement inside Al-Hadath. It is also impossible to enter or leave the area. The situation has been aggrevated by a deterioration in supply reserves. There is a bread crisis as well as other food shortages that have resulted from the closing of shops. One of the causes of the bread crisis is the complete destruction of a major bakery which used to supply the area with most of its bread. No other bakery can provide the required quantity of bread.

Spanish Embassy Damaged

NC241202Y Voice of Lebanon [Clandestine] in Arabic to Lebanon 1115 GMT 24 Jul 78 NC

[Text] The Spanish Embassy in the area of Al-Hadath-B'abda suffered heavy damage as a result of yesterday's shelling.

Clashes Resumed

JN241527Y Baghdad INA in Arabic 1515 GMT 24 Jul 78 JN

[Text] Beirut, 24 July--Clashes resumed this afternoon in the Al-Hadath quarter in south-east Beirut after a short period of relative calm this morning. Traffic has been sparse, with all roads leading to Al-Hadath nearly empty. Sounds of explosions were heard at 1740 today. Sporadic artillery and machinegun fire was exchanged among armed rightist militia elements and the Arab Deterrent Forces.

Deterrent Forces Communique

NC241820Y Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 1800 GMT 24 Jul 78 NC

[Text] The Arab Deterrent Forces command has issued the following communique.

As a result of sniper fire this afternoon three soldiers of the Arab Deterrent Forces were hit, one of whom was inside the (Regie) Company building; therefore, the Arab Deterrent Forces were forced to return the fire for a short period, which ended at 1930.

The command continues to deal with the situation to prevent the recurrence of such incidents in the area.

Sniping Continues 25 July

NC250600Y Voice of Lebanon [Clandestine] in Arabic to Lebanon 0515 GMT 25 Jul 78 NC

[Text] Last night the Al-Hadath area was intermittently subjected to rocket and artillery shelling. Calm then prevailed until this morning when isolated sniper operations began to paralyze life in the township and its neighborhood.

FOREIGN MINISTER BUTRUS SPEAKS TO JOURNALISTS

NC2411547 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 1030 GMT 24 Jul 78 NC

[Text] President Ilyas Sarkis held a working meeting at the Presidential Palace at 1100 today with Prime Minister Dr Salim al-Huss and the minister of foreign affairs and defense, Fu'ad Butrus. At 1200, Army Commander Brig Gen Victor Khuri and Chief of Staff Col Munir Tarabay joined the meeting which they left at 1310.

The meeting at the Presidential Palace ended a short while ago. After the meeting, Minister Butrus made the following statement:

We held a working meeting, which dealt with two main topics: The first pertained to the south and the preparations and measures required for the army's entry into the south in the near future; the second topic related to an exchange of views and to laying the groundwork for an understanding of the main principles in order to reorganize the Ministry of Defense and the army. When we had dealt with the first subject, we concentrated on the second and we agreed on several principles concerning it. Another meeting will be held in the near future in order to continue the discussions and we hope to carry out the reorganization soon, with the help of God.

Asked whether the question of deploying the army in Beirut came under discussion, Minister Butrus said: This subject was not discussed today.

Asked whether a date has been set concerning the army's entry into the south, Butrus replied: I have nothing to say concerning the date. However, I affirm that this will take place in the near future, God willing.

Asked about new security arrangements in the wake of yesterday's security developments, Minister Butrus replied: I have nothing to add concerning our meeting, in which matters related to the current situation were discussed. There are contacts and measures which are under study and preparation in order to contain the situation and prevent problems.

Minister Butrus was asked if he agrees that the security developments have an effect on the security plans already laid down, particularly on the subject of the army's entrance into the south. He replied: I do not share your views on this matter.

FORMER PRESIDENT SHAM'UN: SYRIANS SHOULD LEAVE

NC2411555Y Voice of Lebanon [Clandestine] in Arabic to Lebanon 1415 GMT 24 Jul 78 NC

[Text] In a statement today, former President Camille Sham'un said that the haphazard shelling on the town of Al-Hadath on more than 2 consecutive nights has finally shown international and Lebanese public opinions that this use of the mightiest devices of destruction and extermination constitutes provocation to a peaceful town. There was no or justification for it whatsoever, as was announced by some tendentious radio stations.

Replying to Syrian Minister 'Abd al-Halim Khaddam's statement that a civil war would erupt as soon as the Syrian forces withdraw, former President Sham'un said: Who is going to cause a civil war, if such a war is feared? He concluded: The only thing that is required is the withdrawal of the Syrian forces, whose stay in Lebanon is no longer justified.

UNIFIED FORCES DECIDE TO EXPEL UNDISCIPLINED ELEMENTS

NC241927Y Voice of Lebanon [Clandestine] in Arabic to Lebanon 1915 GMT 26 Jul 78 NC

[Text] Shaykh Bashir al-Jumayyil presided over a meeting of the command of the Unified Lebanese Forces i 'Ayn ar-Rummanah today. The meeting was attended by Dany Sham'un. Certain measures were adopted during the meeting, including a measure to expel the undisciplined elements.

NATIONALISTS HOLD PRESS CONFERENCE, CRITICIZE SARKIS

JN211800Y Baghdad Voice of the Masses in Arabic 1600 GMT 21 Jul 78 JN

[Text] The Lebanese Nationalist Movement has strongly criticized Lebanese President Sarkis for his recent stand on the developments in the Lebanese crisis which ignored the real causes behind these developments. This was announced in a press conference held in Beirut today by the movement's Central Political Council. The conference was devoted to explaining the movement's stand on the program enunciated by Sarkis in his speech last Saturday.

The Lebanese Nationalist Movement warned the Presidential Palace against succumbing to the rightist-Zionist plan which is designed to gain eventual control of the country through communal rule. The movement stated that in light of the recent stand announced by the Lebanese president, the actions of the Lebanese Government will push the Lebanese people toward war and an escalation of internal fighting, the ultimate consequences of which are difficult to predict.

In its long statement, the movement discussed the attitude of the authorities toward partition plans; the issues of the Lebanese Army and the Syrian forces under the cover of the Arab Deterrent Forces; the desired political solution; and the repeated Zionist aggressions against southern Lebanon. The statement explained the methods followed by the rightist front, which is allied with the Zionist enemy, from the moment it raised the question of its partition plan through the slogan it raised to liquidate the Palestinian presence and to paralyze the implementation of the Cairo and Shtawrah agreements, to their final acceptance of the enemy's demands.

The statement called upon the Lebanese president to take a clear stand on the deterrent forces and the forces of the Syrian regime, which are under the banner of the deterrent forces, and also on the role played by these forces in Lebanon and the serious consequences from such a role. The statement said that any security plan presented by the Lebanese president must oppose the calls to divide Lebanon into security zones, some of which will belong to the communally constructed Lebanese Army, some for the rightist militias and the third part for the deterrent forces. The statement pointed out that the idea of security zones is a plan to divide Lebanon and that it uses security as an issue to cover the aims of this new game.

The statement referred to the Zionist invasion of southern Lebanon and said that the authorities must think deeply about this issue, because it is a serious factor which reflects the extent of the deterioration of the state of affairs in Lebanon. The statement expressed the hope that the Lebanese authorities will shoulder their full responsibilities in unifying the country and exposing the partition plans which will leave the Lebanese people with only one option--renewed fighting.

AMMAN CITES KHADDAM: SYRIA WANTS TO WITHDRAW FROM LEBANON

JN231305Y Amman Domestic Service in Arabic 1100 GMT 23 Jul 78 JN

[Text] 'Abd al-Halim Khaddam, the deputy prime minister and foreign minister of Syria, said in Copenhagen today that Syria does not have the means to continue to maintain the Arab Deterrent Forces in Lebanon. He also said that the reason for the continued presence of the Arab Deterrent Forces in Lebanon is the desire to guarantee the safety of Lebanon. However, due to the expense incurred in maintaining these forces, Syria would like to withdraw its forces as soon as possible.

Khaddam pointed out that the Middle East dispute can only be solved if the Geneva conference is reconvened with the participation of all the parties concerned, including the Palestinians.

DAMASCUS PAPERS WARN OF PHALANGIST, SHAM'UNIST PLOTS

JN220748Y Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 0430 GMT 22 Jul 78 JN

[Press review]

[Excerpts] In an editorial entitled "Lebanon Is One Homeland, We Will Not Allow It To Be Anything Else," the newspaper TISHRIN says: Despite the ostensible relative calm prevailing throughout most of Lebanon, the situation there may yet take a serious turn leading to far-reaching developments, for we do not believe that the subversive Phalangist and Sham'unist elements will acknowledge the legitimate authority in Lebanon, or accept what the Lebanese homeland says they must do, or give up their political and social privileges as easily as some people imagine.

There are two reasons for this. First, we believe that the Phalangist and Sham'unist elements will intensify their fascist activities in the next phase along a different line. They will move from the phase of challenging the legitimate authority and rebelling against its decisions and orders, as well as trying to deprive it of its constitutional powers, to the phase of actually waging a campaign of urban terrorism against the Lebanese masses, especially the Christians. These vendettas will be directed against those Christians who let them down, repudiated their tutelage and blackmail and refused to be involved with them in a battle which in fact was against Lebanon and its future.

Second, we believe that despair and disappointment often lead to reckless, bloody and desperate acts, which become even more dangerous when the persons or people concerned are possessed by the Massada mentality. There is no doubt that the Phalangists and Sham'unists are bitter now that they are completely isolated by everyone, including the Christian Maronites.

This potentially explosive situation calls for immediate action to avert it. It behooves all the honest Lebanese nationalist forces to back the legitimate authority in its efforts to implement the policy of President Sarkis on the security, military and political levels.

For its part, Syria, which is now at the peak of its power and the peak of the victory of its principled pan-Arab stands--stands which proved that it has seen things in a wider and more scientific perspective--will not allow the new plot in Lebanon to be carried out. It is in a position to liquidate this plot. All parties, especially the Phalangists and Sham'unists, are fully aware of this. Israel also knows that it cannot protect those who oppose the realization of Lebanon's national future. So we say: Do not go back to tampering with Lebanon's destiny. Syria has always known Lebanon to be one homeland since the dawn of its history. It will not allow Lebanon to be anything else.

In an editorial entitled "Using the UN Card Is a Definite Loser," the newspaper ATH-THAWRAH says: The advocates of partition and the subversive gangs in Lebanon have so far used every method to confuse and paralyze the legitimate authority in Lebanon so it will appear unable to play its role and perform its duties.

They are now threatening to use the UN card in a new desperate attempt to obstruct the efforts of the legitimate authority and also to bring outside pressure to bear on it. If by asking the Lebanese Government to expedite the dispatching of the army to the south--something which the government is required and supposed to do--the Phalangist and Sham'unist gangs and their supporters want to appear as though they are more concerned about Lebanon and the south than the legitimate authority itself, particularly when they also insinuated that several governments will reconsider their contribution to the UN forces in the south, then they are playing a losing card. The UN forces in the south came to Lebanon under Security Council Resolutions 425 and 426. They are performing their tasks under these two resolutions. The UN emergency forces are under the authority of the United Nations, not of the advocates of partition and the fascist gangs.

By resorting to the UN card, the Phalangist and Sham'unist gangs show that they are in a dilemma, having used all the other cards. Anyone who claims to be concerned about Lebanon cannot possibly be against his people and nation.

AL-ASAD PRESIDES OVER PROGRESSIVE NATIONAL FRONT MEETING

JN2313O6Y Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 1215 GMT 23 Jul 78 JN

[Text] Damascus--At 1315 today, President Hafiz al-Asad presided over a meeting of the Central Command of the Progressive National Front. The meeting reviewed the Arab situation and the Arab and international contacts taking place in the area. The meeting also reviewed the events in Lebanon and the efforts to consolidate security in Lebanon and to safeguard the unity and Arabism of that fraternal country.

DAMASCUS RADIO: SYRIA NOW SPEAKS FOR ARAB WORLD

JN2316585 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 1215 GMT 23 Jul 78 JN

[Unattributed commentary]

[Excerpts] Yesterday Damascus was the focus of Arab attention. Representatives of the Arab masses met in the Syrian capital to declare from a position of steadfastness their condemnation of the capitulationist and conspiratorial line pursued by As-Sadat's renegade regime.

The Arabs have chosen Syria because it not only rejects the conspiracy but is also fighting it with all courage. Syria rejects surrender, insists on steadfastness and confrontation, and proceeds firmly on the path of liberation.

Arab support for Syria reflects true solidarity and the [Arab] nation's belief in steadfastness. This Arab popular stand will only make Syria more determined to adhere to its principles and more capable of making additional sacrifices so as to achieve the objectives of the nation--objectives aimed at foiling the conspiracy and defeating all conspirators.

Arab Syria under struggler Al-Asad will continue to express the Arab conscience and to strike, in the name of the Arabs, at all conspirators and traitors. It will not make peace with just anyone. It will not allow anyone to compromise and blackmail. It will continue its unrelenting war against capitulation and alliance with the enemy. Arab Syria will remain with the Egyptian Arab people until their struggle triumphs with the overthrow of the regime of agentry and treason. Arab Syria will remain with Lebanon against its enemies lurking in the south as well as those working with the enemy. Arab Syria will remain the central supporter of the Palestine question. It will not allow any traitorous hands to abandon Palestinian rights and will not allow any renegade to prejudice the Palestine question. Arab Syria will resist the big conspiracy and fight the attempts to impose surrender on the Arab nation. It will do this through more steadfastness and confrontation and by waging the battle with every weapon until the conspiracy is foiled and the usurped rights and lands are regained.

Everyone now notices that Damascus has become the meeting point for all Arabs and the center of national consultation and influence. Everyone now realizes that the decision taken in Damascus is pan-Arab decision and that the position adopted in Damascus is a pan-Arab position because it is Damascus which is now rewriting Arab history in the name of the Arabs.

ECONOMY, FOREIGN TRADE MINISTER RECEIVES POLISH OFFICIAL

JN241514Y Damascus SANA in Arabic 1215 GMT 24 Jul 78 JN

[Text] Damascus, 24 July--Dr Muhammad al-'Imadi, minister of economy and foreign trade, received in his office this morning Antoni Karas, under secretary of the Polish Ministry of Trade [title as received], and the delegation accompanying him. The delegation is currently on a visit to Syria.

During the meeting, the discussion revolved around the means to develop economic and trade relations between the two friendly countries.

MINISTER OF STATE RECEIVES UK'S LORD CARADON

JN250840Y Damascus SANA in Arabic 0829 GMT 25 Jul 78 JN

[Text] Damascus, 25 July--'Abd al-Karim 'Adi, minister of state for foreign affairs, received Lord Caradon, former UK representative at the United Nations, this morning. During the meeting they reviewed the situation in the Middle East. Lord Caradon proposed some ideas for solving the Middle East issue.

INDIAN OFFICIAL LEAVES AT END OF 3-DAY VISIT

JN241339Y Damascus SANA in Arabic 1225 GMT 24 Jul 78 JN

[Text] Damascus, 24 July--Arif Beg, Indian minister of state for commerce, civil supplies and cooperation, left Damascus this morning for home at the end of a 3-day visit to Syria. During the visit, the Indian official held discussions with Syrian officials on developing economic relations between the two countries.

He was seen off at Damascus International Airport by Dr Muhammad al-'Imadi, minister of economy and foreign trade; under secretaries at the ministry; and the Indian ambassador in Damascus.

LIBYA

AL-QADHDHAFI, DJIBOUTI'S GOULED BEGIN TALKS IN TRIPOLI

LD242100Y Tripoli Voice of the Arab Homeland in Arabic 2015 GMT 24 Jul 78 LD

[Text] Official talks between the Jamahiriyah and the Republic of Djibouti began at Ash-Shab Palace this evening. The Libyan Arab side was headed by Col Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi, the Djibouti side by President Hassan Gouled Aptidon. The Libyan delegation included the agriculture secretary; the foreign under secretary, some heads of departments at the Foreign Secretariat and the Jamahiriyah ambassador in Djibouti. The Djibouti side included the agriculture minister and the director of protocol.

The talks dealt with aspects of cooperation between Jamahiriyah and Djibouti. The two sides also agreed to conclude agreements in the cultural, economic and technical fields.

MAURITANIA

MAP: MCNR FREES FORMER MINISTER

LD241124Y Rabat MAP in Arabic 0800 GMT 24 Jul 78 LD

[Excerpt] Nouakchott, 24 July--The Military Committee for National Recovery in Mauritania on Wednesday agreed to release Abdallahi Ould Boye, the former minister of national presidency and party organs, for health reasons. Ould Boye had been under arrest, along with the other members of the former government, since the army assumed power in Mauritania on 10 July.

MAURITANIA TO SUPPORT OAU EFFORTS ON SAHARA ISSUE

PA242338Y Paris AFP in English 2330 GMT 24 Jul 78 PA

[Text] Nouakchott, 24 July (AFP)--Mauritania will support the efforts of the so called "committee of wise men," to be set up by the Organisation of African Unity (OAU) to seek a solution to the Western Sahara conflict, Foreign Minister Cheikh Mohamed Ould Laghdaf said today.

The new military rulers did not plan to embark on its own, parallel peace-making attempt, he said. Mr Laghdaf, speaking to newsmen here, declared: "For the first time favorable conditions have been created for positive action to be taken over the Sahara."

The OAU Summit in Khartoum last week decided to appoint a committee of senior statesmen to try to negotiate an end to the guerrilla war that has set the Algerian-backed POLISARIO Liberation Front against Mauritania and Morocco, which partitioned the Western Sahara in 1976.

Mr Laghdaf said the committee would visit all countries concerned in the conflict and it would receive "understanding and [word indistinct]" from Mauritania.

FOREIGN MINISTER DISCUSSES SAHARA QUESTION

LD242310

[Editorial report LD] Nouakchott Domestic Service in Arabic at 2030 GMT on 24 July carries a report on a meeting this evening between Foreign Minister Cheikh Ould Mohamed Laqdhaf and representitives of the national and international press. In a recorded question-and-answer session, Cheikh Ould Mohamed Laghdaf is asked about Mauritania's role at the recent OAU summit in Khartoum.

The foreign minister says that he went to Khartoum to represent the Military Committee and the head of government at the OAU Summit, and that at the same time he was carrying messages to the heads of states taking part in the OAU Summit Conference. He says he handed these messages to the president of the Sudan and others. He also refers to the question of the Sahara and the statement issued by the head of the government in this connection.

The announcer then continues reporting on the press meeting and says: Replying to a question about the recommendation made by the Republic of Mali to the OAU Summit Conference with regard to the meeting of the committee entrusted with the task of studying the Sahara question and the possibility of the participation of the parties concerned, the minister of foreign affairs said: "When the committee was formed, we could not impose on it a specific date for the start of its work. Moreover we did not fix a date for the next summit conference. Let us make it clear that should the parties agree on the appointment of this committee, then this requires in return the appearance of the parties concerned before the appointed committee. Should the committee find itself in a special situation, the state concerned should enter into negotiations with the appointed committee for that purpose.

"Replying to a question about whether the appointment of the members of the committee comes under the jurisdiction of the organization's current chairman, the foreign minister said: This task, in fact, has been entrusted to President Ja'far Numaryi. He has to enter into consultations with the states and the sides concerned and also with the heads of various states, who agree and who are sent on a mission in suitable circumstances, so that they can play the role of a mediator.

"Replying to a final question about the realization of peace in the Western Sahara and the mediation through which it is possible to bring about this peace, the foreign minister said: First of all we must point out that the Sahara problem has caused many differences and that we have been able now and for the first time to create what we consider to be suitable conditions to embark on a positive action. First and foremost, we must direct our action toward negotiations with the committee, (?as soon as) its work and its contacts with the parties concerned begin. I do not believe that it is possible to embark on an action [words indistinct] that which the committee will carry out. Despite this, I am optimistic regarding the prospects of peace in a future which I hope to be as near as possible.

MOROCCO

BOUCETTA: BELGRADE DELEGATES SHOULD FOCUS ON CUBAN TROOPS

LD242144Y Rabat Domestic Service in Arabic 1900 GMT 24 Jul 78 LD

[Excerpt] M'hamed Boucetta, minister of state for foreign affairs and cooperation, left Nuwasir airport this morning for Belgrade, heading the Moroccan delegation to the nonalined foreign ministers' conference. In his statement to the press, Mr Boucetta spoke about the meeting and he explained Morocco's attitude to the convening of a nonalined summit in Cuba and to putting the question of the Moroccan Sahara on the agenda of the nonalined foreign ministers' meeting. The minister said: [Begin recording] But we shall have to draw attention to the new [word indistinct] which want to remain in the nonalined bloc when it is in fact alined to a certain bloc. For instance, this applied to Cuba, tens of thousands of whose soldiers are now in Africa in accordance with a plan by which it wants to create ideological conflicts and confrontations in our continent. This issue should be the focus of attention of all the states taking part.

Our stand is still the one which we expressed at the Khartoum conference. We said at the African summit [word indistinct] we shall also explain this aspect of our action. We also have to draw attention to the principles on which nonalinement was established, namely, noninterference in internal affairs and avoidance of aggression such as that which our country and sister Mauritania are experiencing. This concerns our region. We shall also stress that the nonalined movement should not be concerned with side issues or regional affairs. Regions and perhaps continents should concern themselves with these issues in order to leave the nonalined movement free to concentrate on the principles and the necessary methods to apply these principles. This, God willing, will be our work in Belgrade. Morocco's contribution to the conference is important.

[Unidentified reporter] Minister, in your opinion will the Arab countries taking part in the conference agree to the holding of the nonalined conference in Cuba?

[Boucetta] I know that several countries have already shown great reservations about this. Some countries have asked for the expulsion of Cuba from the nonalined movement. Some have expressed the opinion that Cuba's behavior has been totally contrary to the nonalined plan. There is no doubt [word indistinct] on the same issue. Morocco's attitude, as I have already expressed, is that we are not satisfied with the presence of tens of thousands of Cuban soldiers in Africa. This is why we now declare that as long as the plan remains the same--and it is the same--we shall not take part in the Havana summit, in view of what I have already mentioned. [end recording]

In reply to a question from MAP on the Moroccan Sahara issue, the minister said: [begin recording]

As I have already said, Morocco's attitude is that this is a regional issue and a side issue--in relation to the nonalined movement. But at the meeting which took place 2 months ago in Havana, one of the tricks and intrigues played by some biased sides was that they wanted to put the issue on the agenda. It was in fact put on the agenda in a (?disorderly) manner. The council of ministers must either approve or reject this agenda. Our reservation was expressed at the time in documents we addressed to those responsible for the meetings. At that time it was Sri Lanka. We also expressed our stand in writing to the host country, Yugoslavia. We received replies assuring us that Yugoslavia's attitude was similar, or rather identical, to our viewpoint on this issue.

What I should like to say is that what concerns us is not whether this issue is on the agenda or not; what concerns us is that Morocco's stand on this issue is made clear. We will not evade listing this issue, regardless of the place or the field where it is to be discussed, because as far as we are concerned the issue is over; we have restored our Saharan provinces. Every time this issue is raised at any international meeting, we shall do all that is necessary to expose the maneuvers, the tricks and the aggression to which our country and Mauritania are being exposed. We shall have the chance to stress this. We regard tension in the region as being caused only by aggression and attacks. This should be understood by the rest of the countries of the world. [end recording]

ASSISTANT SECRETARY OF STATE HAROLD SAUNDERS DEPARTS

LD232118Y Rabat Domestic Service in Arabic 1900 GMT 23 Jul 78 LD

[Text] Mr Harold Saunders, U.S. assistant secretary of state for Near Eastern and South Asian affairs, left Morocco for home this morning at the end of a visit during which he was received by His Majesty King Hassan II.

On leaving, he made a statement to the press, thanking his majesty and the Moroccan Government for the warm welcome accorded to him. He also said he was happy to visit Morocco for the first time since he became the U.S. assistant secretary of state for Near Eastern and South Asian affairs. Mr Harold Saunders added that during his meeting with his majesty the two had thoroughly exchanged viewpoints. The viewpoints were identical, especially in connection with the efforts being exerted to find a solution to the Arab-Israeli conflict. He stressed that his majesty's viewpoint regarding the criteria which should be used in settling that conflict is highly appreciated by the United States.

He added that at present Morocco is playing an important role in the development of events in Africa, and that the United States is doing its utmost at the diplomatic level in order to set in motion the move toward peace and progress in Africa. He stressed that it is important that the Americans took the opportunity to have talks with Moroccan officials in order to continue the bilateral relations which are based on firm foundations. He explained that he would report the results of his talks in Morocco in detail to U.S. Secretary of State Cyrus Vance.

MRS LILLIAN CARTER MAKES STOPOVER

LD232038Y Rabat Domestic Service in Arabic 1900 GMT 23 Jul 78 LD

[Text] Her Royal Highness Princess Lallah A'isheh received Mrs Lillian Carter, mother of U.S. President Carter, at the guest palace this evening in the presence of Robert Anderson, U.S. ambassador in Rabat. Mrs Lillian Carter stopped at Rabat-Sale Airport at 1530 today before continuing her journey to countries on the West African coast.

On arrival Mrs Carter made a statement to the press in which she said that her son, President Jimmy Carter, asked her to convey to His Majesty King Hassan II best wishes for the progress and prosperity of Morocco. She expressed her pleasure at being in Morocco. Mrs Carter pointed out that the Gambian president, while in the United States, invited her to visit eight countries of the African coast, and that she would be leaving for Senegal and then the Gambia. Mrs Carter added that she had arrived from Rome via France. In Rome, she met with his holiness the pope and explained to him the reasons for her journey. After expressing her admiration for Morocco, she expressed regret at the shortness of visit, which is only a rest stopover. She promised she would return to Morocco.

She has welcomed on arrival at the airport by the U.S. ambassador, a representative of the Ministry of Royal Palaces and Protocol, and staff of the U.S. Embassy. Mrs Carter will resume her visit to the West African coast countries tomorrow as an envoy of U.S. President Jimmy Carter. Her journey expresses the U.S. President's interest in the problems of food, the widening of the gap between the rich and poor countries and the role of women in the questions of development. Mrs Carter is 79 years old.

SUDAN

FOREIGN MINISTER LEAVES FOR NONALINED CONFERENCE

JN2413 24Y Khartoum SUNA in Arabic 1245 GMT 24 Jul 78 JN

[Text] Khartoum, 24 July--Ar-Rashid at-Tahir, the vice president and foreign minister, left for Belgrade today at the head of a Sudanese delegation to attend the meetings of the nonalined foreign ministers conference which is to convene there on 25 and 26 July. The conference will discuss nonalinement issues, political developments in southern Africa and the Middle East, and the question of disarmament and a new international economic order.

TUNISIA

BULGARIA SIGNS 5-YEAR TRADE AGREEMENT

LD222040Y Tunis Domestic Service in Arabic 1900 GMT 22 Jul 78 LD

[Excerpt] The seventh session of the Joint Tunisian-Bulgarian commission was concluded this morning with the signing of a 5-year trade agreement providing for the exchange of specific goods between the two countries. The ceremony was attended by Minister of Trade Slaheddine Mbarek and Bulgarian Minister of Chemical Industry Georgi Pankov. It is worth mentioning that the value of trade exchange under this agreement will rise to $100 million compared with $20 million in previous years.

ICFTU LAWYER TO BE ADMITTED TO TRADE UNIONIST TRIALS

LD250921Y Paris LE MONDE in French 23-24 Jul 78 p 3 LD

[Text] Tunis--ICFTU lawyer Francois Sarda will be able to be present as an observer at the trials of the trade unionists implicated in the events of 26 January, the Tunisian authorities announced 21 July.

Mr Sarda was denied admittance when he arrived at Tunis-Carthage Airport 16 July because he was unable to produce documents proving that he was an ICFTU representative and because he was accused--by mistake, it seems--of having made statements inimical to the Tunisian regime.

WESTERN SAHARA

POLISARIO INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS COMMITTEE COMMUNIQUE

LD201535Y Algiers EL MOUDJAHID in French 17 Jul 78 p 4 LD

[APS report: "The Mauritanian, Moroccan and Saharan peoples have a profound need for peace"]

[Text] The POLISARIO's International Relations Committee issued the following communique yesterday: "The decolonization of our continent, the result of the African peoples' struggle, taught us several lessons. The colonialists either held on obstinately in several areas, which cost them the downfall of their regime, or bowed to reality and accepted the right of each people to self-determination, thus paving the way for future cooperation based on mutual respect. Salazar's regime in Portugal and others are evidence of this fact. The decolonization of the Western Sahara, begun by the United Nations, the OAU and other international organizations, was prevented by force. Indeed, two neighboring countries tried to dismember our country, evict our people and take over from a colonial system beset by difficulties and on its last legs.

"A new precedent was thus created in our continent, for it is the first time that a people from our continent who were to have achieved their freedom in their own land have found themselves expelled by force and their territory divided up.

"The senseless invasion of the Western Sahara took place in circumstances which had nothing to do with the Saharan people. The POLISARIO, which took arms against the Spanish colonialists, spared no effort to cooperate with the international organizations and the administrative authorities so as to facilitate peaceful decolonization of the Western Sahara and save our region from insecurity and threats.

"The people most affected, most unfairly, are the Saharan people, under the national leadership of the POLISARIO, and the problem posed is the decolonization of their territory, a subject which has been brought before the United Nations and the OAU. The obstacles to a happy outcome to this process are the foreign forces which aim to deprive them of their wishes and stop the international organizations from calmly putting their decisions into effect.

"Expansionism and interference in peoples' internal affairs are an obstacle to peace and a cause of constant destabilization.

"We are sure that the Mauritanian, Moroccan and Saharan peoples have a profound need for peace, provided they are allowed to act freely according to their wishes.

"The Ould Daddah regime seriously flouted human rights, and all international public opinion has seen the horrible crimes committed against Saharan women and children by the man who stabbed our people in the back at a time when he was facing the common, historical enemy of the Sahara and Mauritania. Thus it is dishonest to worry about the fate of Ould Daddah when there is no concern about the fate of certain Saharan prisoners caught in the act of self-defense for their inalienable right."

PANAMANIAN OFFICIAL VISITS SDAR 'LIBERATED AREAS'

LD2501587 Algiers Domestic Service in Arabic 2200 GMT 24 Jul 78 LD

[Text] Louis Martinez, who is in charge of international relations in the Foreign Ministry of the Government of Panama, has been staying in the liberated area of the Saharan Democratic Arab Republic (SDAR) since last Thursday. During his stay the Panamanian guest was able to visit the refugee camps and Moroccan and Mauritanian prisoners as well as the eight prisoners of the Canary Islands. The Panamanian official also acquainted himself with the painful reality in which the Saharan people are living--the people who were displaced as a result of the expansionist invasion they are being subjected to by the foreign forces of occupation.

At a mass rally staged at one of the refugee camps, the Panamanian official delivered a speech in which he declared in particular that the policy of his country distinguishes between the friendly and the hostile states and that it always supports the peoples' struggle for upholding their just causes.

Ibrahim Ghali, SDAR minister of defense, also spoke. He particularly praised the attitude of Panama, which supports the just Saharan cause. He stressed that the stand of the Government of Panama and the presence of its delegation on our liberated territory is a proof of solidarity between peoples who cherish justice and peace. In his speech the Saharan defense minister condemned the colonialist nature of occupation to which the SDAR is being subjected.

KNESSET HOLDS DEBATE ON TALKS WITH EGYPT

Dayan Speech

TA2410427 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 0904 GMT 24 Jul 78 TA

[Speech by Foreign Minister Moshe Dayan opening the Knesset political debate in Jerusalem--live]

[Text] [Coverage begins in midsentence]...connected with them. None of the parties--neither the Egyptian delegation, nor the chairman, the U.S. secretary of state, nor our delegation--brought up a proposal to discuss a declaration of principles. All three participants wished to discuss the issues in a substantive manner, concentrate on the substantive issues, and after the 2 days of talks at Leeds Castle after thoughts on the continuation of the deliberations had been submitted--mainly by the U.S. chairman, Secretary of State Vance--the tendency was to continue to discuss the issues in a substantive manner--to discuss the practical issues of the future as well--to discuss and deliberate--to find ways of arriving at and realizing a peace agreement acceptable to the sides and not deal with general formulas.

I want to say a word about the issue of an agreement on a declaration of principles. Let us take as an example what is called the Vienna declaration of principles--perhaps this can be called the Eban-Kriesky declaration of principles. First of all, according to Kreisky's testimony, this declaration is intentionally vague so that every side will be able to interpret it in the manner it desires. However, the time comes when the issues have to be itemized and put into practice. The declaration of principles is only meant to serve as a framework for a practical agreement on a peace settlement.

Therefore, on the Egyptian side a clarification of what they see in the Vienna declaration was quick to come. The Egyptian foreign minister stated his understanding of the document soon after the Vienna statement was released, to the effect that the significance of the above statement can only be one--total withdrawal with the outlining of security arrangements for all sides without harming sovereignty and security and, therefore, we--that is to say Egypt--refuse to accept that these arrangements be Israeli, they should be international for the benefit of all the sides and in the framework of honoring the sovereignty of all countries. In the past Egypt has already announced that the international borders in the region are not a subject for discussion and minor changes of the lines of the West Bank might be taken under consideration in a mutual and agreed basis by both sides.

We welcome what was said in the [Vienna] statement to the effect that the achievement of peace demands a solution to the Palestinian problem in all its aspects. This has always been stressed by Egypt and was mentioned in the first clause of its plan with respect to a withdrawal from the West Bank. Egypt believes that a solution to the Palestinian problem calls for recognition of the right of the Palestinian people for self-determination as a basic principle that cannot be compromised--this without being contrary to the foundations that will insure the security of all sides. When we asked the Egyptian foreign minister at Leeds whether this announcement is Egypt's official interpretation of the Vienna declaration--and we showed it to him in writing--he confirmed that this was the case and I wish to state here and now that Egypt's position in the Leeds talks did not deviate significantly from its public statements. This statement, other statements and As-Sadat's latest speech--those passages that discussed the Palestinian issue--and we saw this on television after the Leeds conference--also repeat these principles.

At any rate, even if the interpretations of the declaration of principles were the same there is no choice but to--and I am sure there is no tendency to then arrive at--even with the interpretations being identical--[undertake] practical deliberations about what should be done in practice in order to realize these principles, unless we want to avoid them, unless we wish to avoid direct talks and negotiations in order to achieve a peace agreement. [sentence as heard]

In the talks that took place at Leeds we reached a stage with the Egyptians and the Americans in which we were discussing practical things. Afterwards I will discuss the principles of the Egyptian position as presented by them with respect to a solution for the Palestinian issue. However, please allow me to say with great pleasure--this morning I read in DAVAR MK Shim'on Peres' remarks at the Labor Party center deliberations yesterday under the headline "National Consensus." First of all, when I saw the headline I felt relieved because for several months this very term was a source of sorrow. Who dared to say that there is national consensus in Israel without there also being national consensus on what should be done. Whoever has tried--and I have on several occasions--to dare and say that there are several issues on which almost all of us--except for one or two parties in this house--the smaller ones--are united--the press would explain that there is no such thing. If one does not agree on the positive plan there cannot be national consensus based only on the negative.

However, apart from the headline and with respect to the content, I am very pleased that the Labor Party determined that there is--and I quote--national consensus in the Labor Party and it does not conceive of changing its position--based on: one, there not being any acceptance in the Labor Party of a third Palestinian-PLO state between Israel and Jordan; two, the Labor Party rejected and continues to reject the participation of the PLO in any negotiations; three, all factions of the Labor Party reject a return to the 1967 borders and, according to DAVAR, MK Peres said at this point: I want to make it quite clear that we are not talking about Latrun-type border changes or about minor border changes but the border changes, or the territorial compromise, that the Labor Party supports is aimed at giving Israel security depth so that it will be able to defend itself without being dependent on the favors of strangers.

I am very pleased about the distinction between minor border changes and a territorial compromise. I hope that MK Hayyim Bar Lev, secretary of the Labor Party, agrees that it is impossible to accept the American proposal about minor changes as a basis for negotiation--and I am not saying that he proposes accepting them as they are. The American proposal about minor, Latrun-type changes--and the Americans have elaborated on what they mean by minor border changes--cannot be accepted as a basis for negotiations aimed at reaching the territorial compromise that would give Israel security depth so that it will be able to defend itself, and so forth.

The fourth principle is that the Labor Party has always supported defensible borders based on settlements. The settlements that have been established were done so by us, and we are not turning our backs on these settlements nor do we regret our deed. I wish to state this with great satisfaction and to express my opinion that I also believe that there is a national consensus--and the national consensus does not have to cover all positions not the differences in the positions of the various parties. It is enough that it be based on the principles common to all the parties. For this reason MK Shim'on Peres referred to a national consensus and not the party's position. I have mentioned these things because here I wish to read to you the remarks made by the Egyptians with respect to their position on those issues which I and Shim'on Peres view as having national consensus.

First of all I wish to say something with respect to the U.S. position. To my regret I have to say that despite the fact that the United States did not take a very active part in the Leeds conference, once in a while it made various comments. It would not be right on my part not to tell the members of the house my assessment of the U.S. position even though the deliberations that took place were between us and the Egyptians. Putting it simply, I have to say that we had and we have strong differences with the United States and I do not think that we are on their side on one central issue--on the consistent position of U.S. President Carter about withdrawal from Judaea and Samaria. I do not want to prophesy about his position on withdrawal from other areas--the Golan Heights and Sinai.

This does not mean that there are not other issues over which the United States moved closer to us and changed its position. For this reason, I only mentioned this issue and I am not saying that the gap between ourselves and the United States on the issues of security arrangements or negotiations with the terrorist organizations or the Palestinian state or the right of the Palestinian Arabs to participate in a suitable forum in the determination of their future--on the other issues--it is not possible to find a common language with the United States. But on this central issue of withdrawal from the territories to the former 1967 borders with the exception of minor changes--and minor changes mean that if a certain village was cut in half by the former armistice line then it can be reunited by drawing the border in such a manner that the village not be cut in half--the same goes for village fields being separated from the village--there are other examples --these are called by us Latrun-type changes. [incomplete sentence as heard]

Despite the fact that at Leeds compromises between the Egyptian positions and our positions were not submitted nor were any proposals submitted--neither by us nor by the Egyptians--for changes in the official government plans--neither did we propose any change in the Israeli peace plan nor did they propose any change in the Egyptian withdrawal proposal--I want to say that in my opinion there are points of meeting both in the plans and mainly in the conceptions of the two governments as manifest in the Leeds talks. The points of meeting do not cover and do not balance against the points of disagreement. However, despite this, I allow myself to say that I hope that it will be possible that these points of meeting might serve as an opening for the achievement of an agreement between us and the Egyptians. I will list some of them.

The first operative clause in our administrative autonomy plan, and this is also the first operative clause in the Egyptian plan, is the removal of the military administration. The second in both of them is the establishment of an administration of the Arabs of the territories to conduct their lives in the framework of the peace proposals that we submitted. The third point is a period of 5 years which the Egyptians call an interim period and we call a period after which it will be possible to reassess the principles upon which our plan is based. However, in both there is a 5-year period in which the joint lifestyle has to be created after which the various issues should be finally decided.

Also, the deliberations that took place about a solution to the refugee problem which, in fact, divides into three groups--the Palestinian refugees from 1948, those of 1967 and the Jewish refugees from 1948 who were forced to leave the Arab countries--on this issue as well, despite no decision having been made, and despite the points of departure being basically different--especially the Egyptian demand that the solution be founded on the basis of UN resolutions which are totally unacceptable to us--when we discussed the issues in practice--with respect to some of them I can see points of meeting focusing around the proposal that there be a joint body to discuss this and see where it is possible to return refugees, where it is possible to settle them in the countries in which they presently find themselves and so forth.

On this issue, therefore, there is a basis for a common view not with respect to the solution but with respect to procedures for dealing with this issue. The same goes for the pattern of life in Judaea and Samaria and in the Gaza Strip when peace is achieved.

I attach special importance to this because the Egyptian delegation at Leeds told us that they do not live in the territories. What they told us is on the basis of talks they conducted with Palestinian Arabs living in the territories--to the effect that they want to continue the free contacts and freedom of movement more or less as things are today. The same goes, to a certain extent, for the holy places in Jerusalem--and I stress, the holy places in Jerusalem--because the Egyptians have not changed their position about the need for an Israeli withdrawal from East Jerusalem and a return to the pre-1967 line. However, this without a partition and without limitations on movement between the various parts of the city--and with respect to the holy places, there is room for an agreement or for special clauses in the comprehensive agreement to be devoted to the status or rules applying to the holy places for the various religions. When we deal with so sensitive an issue as Jerusalem this is of special importance. I think that I would not be wrong in saying that from the few remarks made by the Americans on this issue one can gain the impression that they also support this approach.

Recently, on the issue of terrorism--Arab terrorism against Israel--I would not say that the Egyptians are in total agreement with our demand for war against terrorism. However, the positions on the issue of responsibility for the prevention of terrorism were not far apart.

After having said all this, I wish to repeat that the gap and differences between the various positions--both with respect to the plans and the governments--is significantly greater than what they have in common and focuses mainly on three points: one, the future status of Judaea, Samaria and the Gaza District, which they regard as Arab land from which we have to withdraw and over which there should be Arab sovereignty--be it Jordanian or Palestinian; two, the means or ways to insure security for Israel; three, the time frame during which these issues that I mentioned above in all their aspects must be discussed and agreement reached, as well as the mechanism by which these things will be decided--not only the content but who is to decide, how and when. This will appear clearer when I make the last part of my remarks and I wish to do this by reading in brief--not in the order that I mentioned earlier--the basic foundations of the Egyptian position--and I will occasionally mention the Israeli position to the extent that this is necessary--because before this house there is no need to present the Israeli position or the present government's position.

The security measures proposed by the Egyptians in order to give Israel security consist of six clauses and I will state at once that according to their concept these do not include, under any circumstances, the stationing of a single Israeli soldier across the future border --and the future border is a return to the borders that existed between 1949 and 1967 with minor changes and only minor changes--and these minor changes are the ones that I mentioned earlier--because this is what was said by the Egyptian foreign minister--a village cut in half or lands separated from a village---and only with the agreement of the Jordanian-Palestinians with whom the negotiations should be conducted. So with reference to the Egyptian position on Israeli soldiers who are not to beallowed across the border we are talking about this border--the armistice line of 1949.

They list six measures which, in their opinion, should satisfy us--security measures to take effect, of course, in the framework of peace agreement between us and them and Jordan and the Palestinians--for we are talking here only about Judaea, Samaria and the Gaza District, not about other territories, unless I mentioned this, and once in a while they mentioned the Golan Heights which should be subject to these principles.

The first measure is demilitarization and the demilitarization should be mutual--that is on both sides, on the Israeli side and, for the sake of the argument, on the Palestinian side, because this is the word they used. The first security measure is that there be demilitarized areas on both sides of the border, and I have already described the border itself.

The second measure is the limitation of forces--that is that both sides agree that close to both sides of the border there be limited forces--one battalion or [word indistinct] or something to be agreed upon between the two sides--but that this is a measure aimed at insuring Israel.

The third measure is the presence of UN forces, mainly in a supervisory capacity and in numbers to be agreed upon between the sides.

The fourth measure is early warning stations--similar to those in the Sinai--to be manned by either Americans or UN personnel. The civilians cannot be Israeli.

The fifth measure discusses the Elat Straits and this is the sole issue that deviates from the Palestinian issue. The Egyptians agree that the area be under the supervision of a third party--the United Nations or the Americans--but under Egyptian sovereignty, and this is one of the security measures aimed at insuring Israel. That is, no Israelis there but Egyptian sovereignty with either the United Nations or the United States or another third party supervising free passage.

The sixth and last measure is the very establishment of peace. A peace agreement and neighborly relations, normalization in relations, will give more security to Israel than any other military measure.

On the issue of the timing of a peace agreement--according to the Egyptian concept there should be three stages--this is important in understanding their position on the entire issue. First of all, they would like this to be done without the need to agree on a peace agreement, that is to say, they propose that we accept the Egyptian plan and if this came about--this being the first stage--then a short time later there would be a tripartite meeting in which Jordan and the Palestinian representatives would participate with Israel and the Egyptians and with a UN representative--and at this meeting a timetable for the withdrawal of IDF forces from Judaea, Samaria and the Gaza Strip would be drawn up, for elections to the Palestinian [administration], for the removal of the military administration and all the rest. This timetable can cover a long period--even beyond a period of 5 years--this referring to the interim period which is 5 years; and when this is implemented --that is when the last of the Israeli soldiers leave the territory--because they are not demanding that the IDF withdraw from the territories in advance, what they are demanding in advance is agreement in principle that Israel will announce now that it accepts the Egyptian plan--and I will not elaborate on it--I assume that the members of the house know it--that in principle, Israel agrees to remove all its forces and all its settlements--all the Israelis in Judaea, Samaria and the Gaza Strip, but they agree that this be done gradually in accordance with a timetable to be agreed upon between the sides. Therefore, when the withdrawal is completed, then a peace agreement will be signed.

It is possible that some sort of agreement on the final agreement will be signed earlier but the full and total peace agreement--normalization, relations and so forth--must parallel the withdrawal from the territories by Israeli soldiers and civilians and this should be done in accordance with a timetable over a lengthy period of time.

As for the Palestinian issue, the Egyptian position is that the Palestinians are entitled to self-determination and to an independent state but in view of the reality the Egyptians are prepared to concede on an independent state and instead replace it by a national entity for the Palestinians--an entity tied to Jordan. As for Palestinian representation in the peace talks and in the administration to replace the Israeli military government, this representation should include not only the residents of the West Bank and Gaza but also those living outside the West Bank and Gaza who would come and settle in these territories in the future--that is to say, refugees who intend to return. Let us say, that it be agreed that before they return they should send their representatives to the negotiations because they too are to join the permanent residents of the territory.

As for withdrawal and the settlements, the Egyptian position is that the withdrawal must be complete. They will not agree to the presence of even one Israeli soldier after the interim period. Their position on this issue is steadfast. They will only agree to the presence of UN forces and not to any Israeli forces.

As for the settlements, all the settlements must be removed. They will not agree to any Israeli presence or to Israeli settlers.

As for the refugees, the Egyptian position is that all the refugees, including the refugees of 1948, have a full right to return to their place of former residence--that is to say, those whose former place of residence is Israel will have the right to return to Israel and those whose former place of residence is the West Bank or Gaza will have the right to return to the West Bank or to Gaza or to receive suitable damages according to the resolutions of the UN General Assembly. The Egyptians stressed that the first UN resolution on this issue--Resolution 194--was an American initiative, and since 1948 the assembly has reconfirmed this resolution.

Here I wish to say that we have rejected the position that the choice between damages and the right to return to Israel be solely in the hands of the refugees. We have said that Israel has never accepted this--that the refugees have the right to decide this. We have not rejected the idea of damages, we have not rejected the possibility; on the contrary, we have supported the need to settle the refugee problem--some in the countries in which they live, if there are some which, from an economic and other points of view can absorb them--they can be absorbed in Judaea, Samaria and Gaza with mutual agreement, as is written in our administrative autonomy proposal concerning a joint committee--this can be discussed. Even with respect to Israel--Israel has discussed this in the past and we assume that it will be prepared to discuss this in the future as well. But this must be according to its own decision--Israel's decision--and not according to the free choice of the refugees.

As for the territorial issue, the Egyptian position is that Egypt does not agree to any territorial compromise. In its opinion, Israel cannot demand both security and territories.

Egypt will not agree to any territorial change. Israel must withdraw to the lines of 4 June 1967. When we asked them what they referred to be minor changes--we asked them about a territorial compromise--do you agree that there be a peace agreement between us and the Arab side on the basis of a territorial compromise--say along the lines of the Allon plan? They said no, under no circumstances, of course not. Then we said what do you mean by minor changes and they said that Egypt would be prepared to support minor changes, for example, when a field belongs to a certain village--part in Israeli territory and part in the West Bank--then a change can be made so that the field or village is not cut in two. These issues also have to be discussed in a joint committee with the agreement of the Palestinians and the Jordanians. However, Egypt does not really think that territorial changes are a solution to Israel's security problem. They ask: What if instead of the 18 km you have to the shore you get 25 km, will this give you security? Therefore, there is no need for territorial change but for other security measures, and I listed the measures that they propose earlier.

In fact, these are the main points of the issue discussed between us and them. Now, to end, I want to read to the Knesset a document--but before doing so I wish to remind the Knesset members of the remarks I made in the Knesset debate on 19 June when the government made its statement on the political situation....[MK Me'ir Pa'il] Excuse me, Foreign Minister, are you also prepared to tell us what you said in the talks at Leeds Castle, not only what we heard from the Egyptians but what his honor the Israeli foreign minister said, it is interesting to know.

[Dayan] Just a minute, I am about to finish and I ask that I not be interrupted.

[Pa'il] This is why I am interrupting you. You are not saying the most important things.

[Dayan] I am not asking for proposals and I ask that I not be interrupted. Well, the issue about which I will read the document which is relevant to part of the Leeds talks deals with the question of the future sovereignty over Judeaea, Samaria and the Gaza Strip and the issues involved in this--issues which, as I have said, from the Egyptian point of view, was the central issue about which they want a decision in advance--a commitment by Israel in advance on this matter. I want to read a short extract of the remarks that I made on this matter on 19 June in the Knesset with the agreement of the government, and this is what I said.

This issue as well--the issue of sovereignty--which, according to the administrative autonomy proposal does not apply to these territories, will be open and if one of the sides wishes to raise the issue then this issue will be discussed after 5 years. Further on, after 5 years, if someone wishes to raise one or another question or raise, in principle, the question of sovereignty he will be able to do so. In addition to this, the Israeli Government's basic position is that every issue is open to negotiation. Our proposal about an administrative autonomy has not even begun to be discussed because it has not yet been placed on the negotiating table between us and the Arab sides. Therefore, if there are other proposals, or counterproposals or different proposals we will discuss them, but today, before this issue has been discussed--not only before it has even been agreed upon--today, to give our agreement that we commit ourselves now that in 5 years there be a discussion and decision on the final status--this we have not found necessary.

What I wish to say here is that by saying this we have said that before discussing our plan, before discussing something, we are not prepared to make commitments in advance, but this is open, as I said earlier.

Well, at Leeds castle, the Israeli plan and the Arab plan were discussed and placed on the table and these questions were raised and the question of the future of the territories as far as status is concerned was the central issue and contains the greatest gap between the Arab, Egyptian position and our position. On 18 July 1978 I gave Secretary of State Vance the following statement. I gave the statement to the secretary of state in my name at Leeds. Now, that is, this morning, here in the Knesset, I am authorized to reveal it to the Knesset in the name of the government and it includes three clauses--I repeat that it was given to the United States at Leeds for the first time, conditionally, in my name and today I am revealing it to the Knesset on behalf of the government.

The first clause says: A proposal for a peace agreement based on Israeli withdrawal to the pre-June 1967 borders with minor changes and the determination of Arab sovereignty over the evacuated territories will not be accepted by Israel even if it be accompanied by security arrangements. Israel's opposition to such a settlement stems from security, fundamental and practical considerations.

Clause two: Were a concrete proposal for a peace treaty based on territorial compromise to be submitted, Israel would be prepared, in accordance with what has been said on previous occasions, to discuss it.

I wish for a moment not to read from this paper. Whoever says--and the Foreign Affairs and Security Committee has said this--that when you use the word "were" that this refers to the past misinterprets the cabinet decision on this matter. At the time, I used the word "were" in the Knesset--and I am using the term "were" here--but the proposal from an operative point of view also applies to the future and the word "were" in Hebrew also applies in the future. If we deal with philology then this will not be hard to prove. [indistinct interjection by MK Tawfiq Tubi]

MK Tubi, I will discuss the philology of the word "were" at another time.

Now I wish to read the second clause again. Were a concrete proposal for peace based on territorial compromise submitted, Israel would be prepared, in accordance with what has been said on previous occasions, to discuss it.

The third clause is: If the Israeli peace proposal for administrative autonomy is accepted Israel will be prepared, on the basis of what is said in clauses 24 and 26 [of the Israeli peace plan] to discuss the issue of the sovereignty of Judaea, Samaria and the Gaza District after 5 years.

While these clauses do not provide that a decision must be reached on this issue, they will make it possible to find a solution to this issue.

Allon Speech

TA2414317Y Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 0950 GMT 24 Jul 78 TA

[Speech by opposition representative MK Yig'al Allon at Knesset political debate 24 July--live]

[Text] Honorable Chairman, Honorable Knesset: The serious blows that have been dealt--and are still being dealt--to the peace negotiations between Israel and Egypt are partially understandable, but some of them are the deeds of the three involved elements.

The United States, which is supposed to play an indispensable role as the one who bestows good services to the parties, seems to have reached an almost complete identity with Egypt's positions and has reached a rather high degree of coordination of positions with it. The United States has created unrealistic expectations in Cairo and has thus contributed to the stiffening of positions by the Egyptian Government.

Various remarks, reproaches and hints at threats that senior spokesmen in the United States have voiced against the Israeli Cabinet while at the same time demonstrating extreme restraint whenever Egyptian spokesmen voice statements that pollute the atmosphere, are no contribution to creating the necessary climate for the growth of the peace tree.

Step by step, the status of the United States as a fair mediator is being eroded. I must say with all determination that pressures on Israel will achieve the opposite result. Against pressures which harm Israel's interests we will all stand united despite differences of opinion in principle and on tactics which we will continue to discuss with all clarity among ourselves, as befits a responsible and modern democracy.

As an Israeli citizen who regards the United States as a historic friend and who believes in its capability of contributing to achieving peace and security in our area, I call on the U.S. leaders to return to a more objective position which will bring additional effectiveness to its good services.

Honorable chairman, today as during the unforgettable November days, I value President as-Sadat's visit to Jerusalem as a historic deed and a daring step which has opened new chances for peace between the countries in the region for the benefit of all.

[Indistinct interjection]

Mr Chairman, I suggest that you discuss the governmental crisis around a different table.

However, that great deed has been harmed because of the ultimatum-like notes which from time to time accompany the Egyptian president's declarations. His statement that in October the interim agreement will expire and the threat in his speech to the 2d Army that he will renew the military option in political means fail clearly contradict the interim agreement and are not helpful in creating the atmosphere in which such an important agreement can develop. The Egyptian president must understand that his readiness to accept Israel's existence and his dramatic visit to Jerusalem, with all their importance, cannot serve as the sole contribution to solving the conflict and insuring the stability of peace. The Egyptian president's insulting words to the prime minister should be rejected outright. The prime minister did well in refraining from reacting with insulting words. My advice to him is--if the opposition may give advice to the cabinet--that he continue along this line, unlike the opinion of some of his hotheaded colleagues. Not always is a verbal response a guarantee of maintaining personal and national honor. Sometimes there is great power in restraint. President as-Sadat gravely erred in recalling Foreign Minister Kamil from the Jerusalem meeting in January and, in fact, ended the negotiations. Similarly, his harsh remark following the Leeds Castle talks together with questioning the continuation of the talks--and I hope this is not his final position--does not help to advance peace, because we look forward to negotiations and not to dictates from any side against any side.

There is an Arab saying: God is with those who are patient; those who are impatient are like heretics. This is how this wise Arab saying goes. Patience is not one of the characteristics of Egypt's conduct at various stages of the negotiations.

Regrettably, the Israeli Government, too, has made its own contribution to the creation of the complexity. The new interpretation to Security Council Resolution 242 which was agreed upon in principle by Israel, its neighbors and the entire world, even though this was accomplished by giving it differing interpretations--was disastrous in terms of substance and propaganda alike. The determination that in no part of Judaea, Samaria and the Gaza Region would--and I am quoting--a sovereignty or a foreign rule--end of quote--be established, not only is unfair to the Arab population, but is unrealistic and presents Israel in a distorted light even in the eyes of many friends. The proposal of autonomy, which has a positive nucleus which I have supported since 1967 was given such a negative substance that it was regarded in the world as being a trick by Israel to realize its control over greater Israel by other means. So that there would be no more doubt as to the intentions of the Israeli Cabinet, the foreign minister found it right to clarify--in a previous political debate, from this podium--that the Israeli Cabinet intends to act toward guaranteeing the complete permanent existence of the administrative autonomy.

We shall find, Knesset members, that Israel's intentions arouse suspicions and its credibility has reached an unprecedentedly low state. The exhibitionist settlement policy at the wrong place, with the wrong method and at the wrong time, has caused unimagined damage to Israel's status in the international arena.

I do not know why the foreign minister praises himself so much that there was no discussion of a declaration of intentions but rather of substance at the Leeds Castle talks, as if he brought with him great news that indeed there has been progress when they began discussing the substance of the matter: territories, populations--which are by nature delicate issues--more than if they had discussed a declaration of intentions.

This proposal and this practice have paved the way for the offending phenomenon of U.S. questions accompanied by draft answers which have brought poor replies. Did you, the people who shape Israeli policy, not understand that within the framework of the Egyptians' stiff policy it would be harder to reach a concrete agreement on such delicate issues as the territories and the population than it would be within the framework of a declaration of intentions? Indeed, Israel's foreign policy plays directly into the hands of our adversaries and thus it possibly constitutes the greatest enemy to Israel's status among the world's nations.

A joint declaration of intentions regarding the future of Judaea, Samaria and Gaza is necessary for Egypt and cannot harm Israel's real interests. It appears that Egypt does not see it possible to continue separate negotiations without showing concern for the Palestinian problem and for the territories held within the borders of Eretz Yisra'el. Apparently it wants to show the Egyptian nation and the Arab world that it is forming the fundamental infrastructure for solving the problem which is every Arab's problem and one of the roots of the conflict, that is--the Palestinian problem. One cannot rule out the possibility that if Israel and Egypt could reach an agreement on a declaration of intentions it would have provided the opening for Jordan and the Arab population in the occupied territories to join in the negotiating process.

Those who questioned the importance and the practicality of the possible declaration of intentions are hereby invited to peruse the Vienna document published by the Socialist International chairman, Willy Brandt, and the chairman of the International Committee for Middle Eastern Affairs, Bruno Kreisky. This document and its interpretation--supported by the opposition--ought to be included in the Knesset minutes.

I quote: Article one: Peace between Israel and the Arab states can only be reached through sincere and sustained negotiations. We urge Egypt and Israel to resume the negotiating process that was suspended in January 1978, and to maintain the As-Sadat initiative until peace treaties are concluded and signed. Article two: Peace must be based on the establishment of normal and friendly relations between Middle Eastern states in the diplomatic, economic, cultural and human fields. Peace means much more than the termination of a state of war. It involves the creation of a new system of regional relations based on close cooperation. Article three: An important element in the peace settlement is the establishment of secure borders in accordance with Security Council Resolutions 242 and 338. Israel would withdraw in each sector to the secure boundaries thus agreed. The exact location of the peace boundaries remains to be determined in the peace negotiations. There should also be provision for demilitarization and for Israeli security measures in such areas as the needs of security call for. The last article: The establishment of peace requires the resolution of the Palestinian problem in all its aspects. The arrangement must involve recognition of the Palestinians' right to participate in the determination of their own future through negotiations in which their elected representatives would take part.

Indeed, members of the Knesset, that document is the best interpretation that has been made of Security Council Resolutions 242 and 338 by an international body. It is closest to the formulations of the Alinement's elections platform made by a foreign element, in other words--we have even better formulations in our platform and in our policy. On the contrary, members of the Knesset, kindly compare this document to other interpretations and to the declarations of the nine members of the European Community, or even to the Aswan declaration, and you will find out how much benefit can be derived from it. Do not let your zealousness get the better of you. This document calls for the continuation of the negotiations until a peace agreement is signed and a normalization in relations is achieved. It states that the withdrawals on all fronts will be carried out--and I am quoting--withdrawals to secure boundaries. The reference is to withdrawal on all fronts, but not from all the territories. In other words, a territorial compromise. The security arrangements are proposed as an appendix to defensible borders, not as a substitute for them. We have just heard from the foreign minister that there, at Leeds, there was talk of substitutes for the borders, while our friends at the Socialist International--and not without Egypt's knowledge--are talking about security arrangements as complementing the secure borders, not as replacing them.

There is no mention of a Palestinian state, the PLO is not invited to participate in the negotiations; rather, it is determined that the Palestinians will take part in determining their future. According to this document and according to the Labor Party's--our--interpretation, the Palestinians are the Arab population living in the West Bank and in the Gaza region, and it is they who will determine who their representatives will be.

Indeed, we believe that a declaration of intentions may bring Jordan to the negotiating table, or at least pave the way to the renewal of the separate negotiations with Egypt.

Why, then, are the coalition spokesmen angry at opposition leader Shim'on Peres? Is it so often that we have been blessed with international documents of such a positive scale? Is the far-reaching concession that the prime minister has made in the Sinai even before the negotiations began--and perhaps as a prior condition for it--better? Did it advance us more? Does the sorry gift of the autonomy open new channels for the negotiations, or improve Israel's image in the world?

Did the Leeds Castle talks bear such fruit that the government can praise itself on it? What is the sense of the cabinet ministers--including the foreign minister, just a few minutes ago--determining with almost deep satisfaction that the Egyptians do not accept even the Alinement's plan, and by that to dismiss it? Did they accept his plan? Did they accept Mr Begin's plan? Is it impossible to have the patience to distinguish between a starting point and the development of negotiations?

But, my friends on the coalition benches, you are afraid lest Jordan respond to the challenge and join the negotiations, lest you would have to bid farewell to your illusory dreams about maintaining greater Israel forever through a rule under the disguise of a nonautonomous autonomy.

Look, whatever Egypt's or Jordan's answer or the U.S. position is with respect to the autonomy, it is bad for us. It is a poor plan which causes failure. If it is rejected, Israel is presented as being stubborn; if it is, God forbid, Mr Prime Minister, accepted, the highway for de-Zionization of the State of Israel will be opened. The autonomy which will be implemented in all the occupied territories in accordance with your recipe is bound to end up as a third independent state without it even being possible to say that the Palestinian problem has been solved by it. No one wants that third state: not the coalition, not the opposition, not Jordan and not Egypt. While Israel would soon turn into a national country without defensible borders.

Members of the Knesset, there is no choice but to maintain a territorial compromise, because only in the framework of a territorial compromise is it possible to fulfill the basic interests of both parties. Israel is interested--and should be interested--in maintaining its Jewish character and its democratic regime. It wants legal and political recognition, the normalization of relations with its neighbors and defensible borders that cannot be replaced by electronic security solutions. The Arab side wants back territories it had lost, as many territories as possible, in that war which they imposed on us, and the solution of the Palestinian problem--something which I can understand. How is it possible to fulfill these needs if not on the basis of a compromise? There is no other way out even if this basis is not accepted in the first or second move of the negotiations. There already exists a certain degree of agreement on several points--some of which were mentioned by the foreign minister, some of which were mentioned in other forums--and therefore Egypt's president is wrong when he explains to the world, and to us--via the electronic communications media--that he does not understand Israel: It wants peace, diplomatic relations, security--he agrees that it deserves security--but why territories? He claims because in our period, precisely because of the dramatic development of conventional weapons, the value of territories has gone up. However, our government is wrong in presenting--against As-Sadat's stiff position--an opposite stiff position of all the territories in Judaea and Samaria at the time when, in our humble opinion, if and when we reach a mutual agreement on the principle of the territorial compromise, it would be possible to provide effective defensible borders which would be different from the armistice borders, and it would be possible to give an answer to the Palestinian problem as well.

Madam Chairwoman, allow me to make two remarks to the cabinet spokesmen and--if I may--to the prime minister concerning their sharp expressions which sometimes smack of a McCarthyist flavor, when they attacked the Labor Party, the Alinement, the opposition leader, saying they had stabbed the country in the back. You shall decide who is a patriot and who is not, who is stabbing the country in the back and who is not?

The prime minister even made himself--and this apparently is within his authority as prime minister--a clerk who grants exit permits. He will decide whether to give the opposition members exit permits to travel where they want to.

Knesset members, the opposition has no presumptions to decide to act instead of the cabinet in conducting negotiations with the Arab countries. We have repeatedly announced for an infinite number of times that negotiations will be conducted solely by the cabinet and by its authorized representatives, whatever our criticism of the nature of the conduct of the negotiations and their substance.

Our international ties, the ties of the Labor Party with the Socialist International on the multipartisan or bilateral basis do not require the approval of any government. This is common practice in all the modern democracies in the world.

[Unidentified Knesset member] Have you paid your membership fees? Yig'al Allon, have you paid your membership fees to the Socialist International?

[Allon] We do not need your permission when to meet, with whom to meet and what to discuss.

[Unidentified Knesset member] Poor things, poor things, poor things, poor things.... really, poor things.

[Allon] We are the only ones who will decide what we may deal with and whom we may meet with and what we can talk about.

[Chairwoman] Knesset members....

[Allon] The present opposition....

[Chairwoman] Just 1 minute, Mr Prime Minister....

[Unidentified Knesset member] A new filmshow for free....

[Chairwoman] Knesset members, I ask you not to interrupt the speaker. MK Peres... Mr Prime Minister, you will have your chance to reply to the speaker. MK Peres....

[Allon] Knesset members, I cannot assure you that if the Alinement's plan were the Israeli Cabinet's declared policy, or if the Alinement--as a cabinet--had conducted the negotiations, peace would be in our hands. However, two things I can say: first of all, the cabinet--or rather, the cabinets--headed by the Alinement have achieved three agreements that are still effective; second, even if our plan were not accepted at once, at least it could have been presented to the world as a plan which takes into accout both the Israeli interests and the Arab interests. What is the difference between policy-making and politicianism? Policy-making wants to see both parties' interests, while narrow-minded politicianism sees only the interests of one party, and this is what characterizes Mr Begin's cabinet's policy.

Mr Prime Minister, more than a year has passed since you presented your cabinet to the Knesset, a year full of failures. There is not one field of the cabinet's fields of activity in which you have not failed, you have not fulfilled any promise you made to your voters. You promised your voters on the radio that immediately upon entering office you would see to it that a convention would be signed by all the elements of the economy so that there would be no raise in prices and no raise in wages and no raise in profits--the devil knows what--for 2 consecutive years, and all this...and no raise in taxes.

All this spoke to the heart of the innocent housewife, all this spoke to that part of the population which you, for some reason, call the poor. You have not been able to fulfill your promise for 1 week, and we have found ourselves in inflation, an inflationary spiral which has apparently exceeded any governmental control to such an extent that one of your senior ministers is apparently going to take leave of you, Mr Prime Minister.

[Unidentified Knesset member] Would you like to bet that he will return?

[Allon] In the field of policy, to what dead end have you brought us? To a situation in which we are cut off and estranged from all the centers of power and influence in the United States of America--our traditional friend: the White House, the Houses of Congress and public opinion--including a large part of the Jewish public opinion, and I shall not number all your failures and all your mistakes and your leaks. You cannot even succeed in functioning as a team.

Would it be exaggerated, Mr Prime Minister, if I told you the truth that is in my heart? Since you have not fulfilled the commitments you have taken upon yourselves, neither in the socioeconomic field nor in the political field, you must resign and, following you, the entire government must retire, and give the people a chance to elect its cabinet anew, not according to the conditions that have prevailed for over a year, but according to the conditions that have been created now, after they could also judge you according to your deeds. You are so sure of the results, you believe in the polls and the lies, why, the results are in your favor, not in ours. Still I am making a patriotic approach to you: Mr Prime Minister, resign and return to serve the country from the opposition. You have done it with great talent.

Begin Speech

TA241658Y Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 1522 GMT 24 Jul 78 TA

[Prime Minister Menahem Begin closing speech at the Knesset political debate on 24 July 1978--live]

[Excerpts] At this moment, the prime minister is mounting the Knesset podium in order to sum up the political debate. Let us, therefore, move to the live broadcast from the Knesset and to our correspondent Moshe Hakohen:

At the end of the political debate, which was not too profound--28 Knesset members participated in it and it continued for 6 hours--Prime Minister Menahem Begin has mounted the podium to reply. The prime minister, who took the podium 2 minutes ago, began his words by reading the message he sent to President as-Sadat yesterday. Here are his words:

[Begin] We want negotiations on signing a peace treaty and that is why we understood that our duty, following President as-Sadat's visit to Jerusalem, is to prepare a peace plan and we have indeed submitted it.

We will not give any presents, not even one grain of the desert sand as a gift. We can make agreements. In our time, it is necessary to distinguish between peace treaties and peace relations. We want full peace treaties with all they entail: secure borders, passage of population, free commerce, diplomatic relations, scientific cooperation, development and more. However, if up to a certain day it is difficult--or impossible--to attain the peace treaties, we are prepared to go on the way of demanding peace relations.

The example for the distinction is Germany in Europe: After World War II, it did not sign a peace treaty. Other European countries did sign a peace treaty while Germany lives in peace relations with all its neighbors and with all the countries of the world.

Therefore, if President as-Sadat accepts our proposals and agrees to hold a meeting between our representatives in one of the places which I have written to him about, we will propose a certain suggestion--in compensation for Al-'Arish and Santa Katerina. If he accepts, we shall make an agreement--not an interim agreement, not a temporary agreement, not an agreement for 3 years, not an agreement which needs renewal every year--but a permanent agreement on the basis of the principles on which I have spoken. This agreement will determine that on a certain front peace relations between Israel and Egypt have been established.

We are prepared to go this way, and if anyone should call it a new way--I agree. I think that it is an experienced and good way. I repeat: We want negotiations on a comprehensive peace, on signing peace agreements with all our neighbors, but if it is impossible as far as the neighbors are concerned, we will be prepared to discuss peace relations. Here we have the opportunity: Egypt's president proposed that we give him something. Gifts--no. Negotiations on an agreement on the basis of mutuality--yes. Then we will determine peace relationships in a certain field, and it is possible to make the same progress in other fields, too, but everything on the basis of mutuality. No unilateral step will be taken by Israel toward Egypt, neither will we demand that Egypt make unilateral steps toward us. Everything will be done in justice, fairness and honesty.

The opposition spokesman, Mr Chairman, praised me for not having been tempted to reply to the slanders coming from Cairo. I thank him for these words of praise. Today, too, I will really not enter a personal argument with President as-Sadat. I shall remain silent. I want the negotiations to continue. Me Atherton is coming this week, in about 10 days Mr Vance will be coming, we shall meet together, and therefore I shall refrain from any polemi and any worsening of relations.

However, I must reply to one thing, because it is a most substantial matter and there is no personal polemicizing here, but to clarify something. In his last speech President as-Sadat said: The difference between myself and Mr Begin is in that Mr Begin regards the peace agreement as the end, while I regard peace agreements as the opening of a new period and more. I want to say that, with all respect, President as-Sadat made a very basic mistake and I have no idea where he got this idea which he repeats in almost every speech.

I shall produce the evidence: Here are my words: Mr President, in this democratic house commanders of all the fighting Hebrew underground are sitting, and they were forced to conduct a war of the few against the many, against an immense international power. Here sit our top commanders, people who have led entire armies to a battle which was forced upon them and brought them to an unavoidable victory, because they defended their right. They belong to various parties and they have differing views. However, I am sure, Mr President, that I will be expressing the opinion of all of us without exception in saying that we have one desire in our heart and one wish in our soul, and we are united on this desire and wish to bring peace--peace to ourselves, who have not known peace even for 1 day since we started returning to Zion, and peace to our neighbors, to whom we wish all the best.

We believe that if we make peace, a real peace, we will be able to help one another in all fields of life and a new era in the Middle East will begin--a period of blooming and growth, development, advancement and increase, as of yore.

Therefore, may I today determine what the nature of peace according to our understanding is: we seek a full, genuine peace with a total conciliation between the Jewish and Arab nations, not to sink into past memories. There were wars, there was bloodshed, wonderful youngsters fell on both sides--we shall forever remember our brave ones who gave their lives so that this day may come, this day, too, may arrive. We respect the enemy's courage and we give honor to all the members of the young generation among the Arab nation who gave their lives. We should not fall back on past memories, even though they may be hard on all of us, but rather overcome them and care for the future, for our nation, for our children, for our common future, and see to it that we shall all live together in this area for long generations: the great Arab nation and its countries, and the Jewish nation in its country, Eretz Yisra'el, and therefore it is necessary to determine the nature of peace.

Let us, Mr President, conduct negotiations as free men, on a peace treaty, and with the help of God--so we fully believe--the day will come when we will sign it with mutual respect and then we will know that the period of wars is over, we have reached out a hand one to the other, we have shaken each other's hands and the future will shine for all the nations of the region.

As the Knesset members see and have heard, these were my words at the Knesset when President as-Sadat sat at my side, and I do not at all see the signing of a peace agreement as the end of the road, but on the contrary, as a beginning of a glorious future both for ourselves and for our neighbors.

However, when we talk of vile words, it is incumbent upon me to say truthfully that, the slanders voiced in Cairo, compared with the slanders voiced by the major opposition during the past week, are nothing, nothing. There has never been such a thing in any country in the world, and in order to prove this, I shall read to you the following announcement made by the famous Jewish organization--the U.S. Antidefamation League. This league knows what defamation is; it has been fighting it for nearly 100 years. It is one of the largest and most active organizations in the United States, a completely nonpartisan organization, and it published the following announcement: As the U.S. organization which deals with recruiting support for Israel, we are shocked and confused in face of the personal attacks on Prime Minister Menahem Begin as they were attributed to the Israeli Labor Party's leaders. These declarations cause great damage to the Israeli cause in the United States.

[Hakohen] The prime minister in continuing his words, words of reply to the opposition's attacks on him. Later, we shall return to you from the Knesset for the continuation of the words. [Live coverage resumes at 1541 GMT.]

[Begin] The problem that has been raised now is one of keeping state secrets. None other than Mr Gad Ya'acobi said on the radio that I have proved that I could not share state secrets. I propose an agreement to you, Mr Gad Ya'acobi: In the 3 following years, you shall not share any state secret with the prime minister. [laughter]

I want to explain now that I have not revealed any state secret. It is true that Mr Peres told me that he wanted to meet with King Husayn. This is true, and I have told this to my closest friends. This is not only my right but also my duty. I am a prime minister in a democratic country. This is not a secret connected with questions of life and death which must not be told even to one other man, not even to one of my best friends. Such a secret should be shared only by the secret services and myself and it is from here that sadness and responsibility emerge. However, in this case, I had both the right and duty to tell my closest friends that such a thing had come to pass. I have not spoken with journalists. I have not called for a press conference. I have not leaked things. Why should I assume that these two friends of mine, my closest friends, were the ones to leak things? Other people knew about this top secret, about the planned meeting with Husayn. It is true that I have forbidden Mr Peres to meet with King Husayn in London. To make a long story short, I want to say immediately--dear friends from the opposition, be kind enough to take note of this--since it is you who say that in order to hold such meetings, not meetings in the Socialist International or other international organizations, but such meetings with an Arab leader, you need the permission of the government and the prime minister. Well then, I hereby announce in advance: There is no agreement. It is not your role to conduct negotiations with the leaders of the Arab states. It is the role and task of the government. Now I will reveal to you a secret about what this government is going to (?do): It is going to rule, to rule.

[Interruptions from the floor]

[Begin] I want to explain that neither Mr Peres, nor Mr Eban, nor Mr Yig'al Allon will receive my permission to meet with the leaders of the Arab countries and to submit to them proposals from the Socialist International. Incidentally, MK Peres, I must mention that you came to me on Saturday and asked for my permission to see As-Sadat in Austria. Not in a single word did you hint to me that you were carrying a proposal for, or rather in the name of, the Socialist International and that you would also show it to As-Sadat... On Thursday we spoke on the telephone. A meeting had in the meantime been set between the two foreign ministers in Leeds. Therefore I advised that you would not travel. You said that you had to consult your friends. On the telephone again--on Thursday you surely had that famous formula--you did not hint to me that there was such a proposal. I am a prime minister after all. I am allowed to know after all. This is, after all, an important institute, this Socialist International! It can help the State of Israel.

Well then, one day we heard that the Socialist International would discuss a certain proposal that was very much praised by the spokesman of the opposition who also said the opposition knows its contents. I do not want to go into this, but on the following day we learned that this was not a proposal of the Socialist International at all but that it was a proposal composed by MK Abba Eban. If so, what good was brought about by our sages' reform? All the gentiles will surely say: This is the proposal of the Socialist International that was written by the former foreign minister of Israel. Is this how state secrets are kept in Israel? We will surely be mocked! This is how things were. Peres turned to Abba Eban, asked for a formula--it seems that Peres had difficulty writing the formula--and Abba Eban wrote it. He had a formula then which he brought before Kreisky and others. To reveal such a secret? That the Socialist International accepted his proposal, the proposal that was formulated by a former foreign minister of Israel and to claim later that this is a certain document of the Socialist International! Some way of keeping secrets you have!

We do not ban any travel abroad. It is only what I have said before that is valid.

Well, we want relations of mutual honesty between the opposition and the coalition. The cabinet will handle the country's affairs, will conduct negotiations on peace. I can say today, thank God, the results are not bad at all, to use what the English call an understatement. Still before us is the future of the negotiations, and basic changes have taken place, and yesterday a U.S. correspondent said something about the results of our stubbornness in the positive sense of the word, and the struggle is still ahead. The secretary of state will come, his deputy will come, we will go abroad, there will be more meetings. As I said in my last speech at the Knesset regarding the searches for peace [words indistinct] we shall seek every way, every path to reach an agreement and to make peace and prevent war. This is how we had begun, and this is how we shall continue for a long time.

Therefore, we shall conduct the negotiations, not the opposition. We will not agree that the opposition conduct the negotiations, under no circumstances--it is our prerogative, and this morning I heard from the United States of America a most important announcement from which we can learn a lesson: only two men are authorized to make public expressions with respect to foreign policy--the President and the secretary of state. It was intentionally mentioned that the important man at the head of the National Security Council, Dr Brzezinski, can express his opinion on foreign policy, but not in public.

[Indistinct interjection]

[Unidentified Knesset member] Tell that to your cabinet.

[Begin] Leave that to the cabinet.

[MK Gad Ya'aqobi] That applies only to the administration. The senators are entitled to express their opinion.

[Speaker Shamir] Knesset members, there is no need to react to every sentence with interjections.

[Begin] They cannot do otherwise.

[Unidentified Knesset member] Only with respect to annoying sentences.

[Begin] They cannot do otherwise.

[Indistinct interjections]

[Begin] That is what happened to them. They do not regard themselves as being in the opposition.

[Unidentified Knesset member] To forbid Knesset members to express themselves.

[Unidentified Knesset member] You probably liked such a presidential regime as....

[Unidentified Knesset member] Do you want us to live in a totalitarian regime? Do you want us not to comment?

[Unidentified Knesset member] I understand that here is an attempt to deny the opposition its right to express its political views.

[Begin] The cabinet will conduct the negotiations, the opposition will be able to criticize it, and if it has a majority in the Knesset, to overthrow it. I would like to reply to the opposition spokesman who voiced a patriotic call on me to resign. I would like to say only to him personally, so that he does not tell anyone: I will not do this.

[Indistinct interjections]

[Begin] A patriotic proposal! I have been elected, the nation showed confidence in us, it took 22 seats from you--such a thing has never happened in the history of Israel that a party should lose 22 seats in the elections.

[Indistinct interjection]

[Begin] Ah, Amir, when I see you maybe I should correct myself and say only 21.5 seats.

[Unidentified Knesset member] But what have you done with them?

[Begin] This, perhaps, I must do. The people took 22 seats from you, expressed no confidence in you. So you cannot handle things. Opposition--be our guests, let it be the harshest criticism, but let me speak!

Now I should like to say something from my heart: Today we had a bitter argument, as it obviously had to be, it began sharply and it ended sharply, and it is a democratic parliament. And if things were said--if I hurt somebody, I am prepared to beg pardon. But this is not the important thing. The important thing is that we are facing difficult days, big days.

On behalf of the cabinet, I would like to announce that we will conduct the nation's affairs, they will not break us, if they try to exert pressure on us, we shall ward off that pressure, we shall maintain Israel's safety, will strive for peace with security, we shall not forsake our civilian population to potential enemy fire. In the last 11 years there have been changes in the arms strength in the Middle East. The Soviet artillery of today has a range of 43.8 km, there is a weapon called Strela which can be held by hand on the shoulder and fell an aircraft from an altitude of tens of thousands of meters. We will defend our population and give it security, and Israel will have only such a peace, peace with security. This is our hope and this is how we will operate.

Ultimately, when I review the near future--and the not so near future,too--and the present and the future--after all these bitter arguments I would like to say: I am lucky that I am a member of this generation--no matter what party he belongs too--a generation in the history of Israel, a generation which everything it got it got with suffering and with courage. With fathoms deep suffering and with courage, with fathoms deep suffering and supreme courage. We are lucky to be living in such a generation.

In 1 hour we will all go to the grave of the prophet who predicted the establishment of the country, Binyamin Ze'ev Herzl, one of the excellent people who are born once in an era, who renewed the nation's history, who gave this nation a vision according to which this people has been living and will continue to live.

Other Speeches Reported

TA241342Y Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1300 GMT 24 Jul 78 TA

[Text] The Knesset Foreign Affairs and Security Committee chairman, Moshe Arens, said during the Knesset political debate today that the change of the Arab world's viewpoint of Israel is a direct result of the strengthening of the state and the IDF. The positions of the Arabs are getting more moderate also because they are becoming more and more oriented toward the Western world.

Shemu'el Toledano from the DMC accused the government of not understanding the processes occurring in the Arab world and of being deaf to peace.

Me'ir Pa'il from Shelli said that there will be no peace without a withdrawal from the territories.

Yosi Sarid from the Alinement said that the prime minister, who said only 6 months ago that peace was drawing near, is the father of the Peace Now Movement.

Yehuda Abramovitz from Agudat Yisra'el lauded the government, saying that it is making every effort to bring peace closer.

Further Report

TA241705Y Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1600 GMT 24 Jul 78 TA

[Text] Here is a summary of the remarks made by the Knesset members of the various factions in the political debate in the afternoon.

Shulamit Alloni from the Citizens Rights Movement said the government should go to the nation and hold elections on the question of which is better: peace or the greater Eretz Yisra'el.

Kalman Kahana from Po'aley Agudat Yisra'el expressed satisfaction with the fact that in the Knesset debate, despite the disagreements, a wide national consensus has been manifested. He leveled harsh criticism at the Peace Now Movement which is, in his opinion, a mere slogan.

Tawfiq Tubi from Hadash called for an immediate return to the Geneva conference and for sitting together with the United States and the PLO or the Soviet Union in order to discuss the future of the region.

Dov Shilansky from the Likud said that the Alinement should be condemned for its campaign of slanders against the prime minister. He said that at times of crisis the Likud always stood by the former governments, supporting them in their national effort.

Yosef Tamir from the Likud accused the Alinement of having a split personality. He says that on the one hand the Alinement claims that the Likud is making far-reaching concessions in the Sinai and that the autonomy plan may lead to a PLO state, and, on the other, the Alinement alleges that the government is not flexible enough and obstructs the way to peace.

Yitzhaq Rabin from the Alinement said that there is a national consensus on what is unacceptable: a PLO state and a withdrawal to the 1967 lines. However, the government adheres to a no-withdrawal policy and so does Egypt. Israel should accept that the principle of withdrawal applies also to Judaea and Samaria and the Gaza Strip. Mr Rabin also proposes to have the representatives of the residents take part in the discussions and to let Jordan play a role. If we follow this road, peace is still not guaranteed, but we must try. Hayyim Druckman from the MAFDAL said the blows dealt to the prime minister's honor should not be forgiven. This leads to an unsympathetic public opinion in the world.

Debate Concludes

TA241722Y Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1700 GMT 24 Jul 78 TA

[Excerpt] With a majority of 68 coalition votes against the 37 votes of the opposition, the Knesset took note of the government's announcement as brought in the political debate. The Knesset rejected, with a majority of 64 votes against 32, a concluding proposal submitted by the Alinement to the effect that the government's policy leads to a dead end. With a larger majority, the concluding proposals of Hadash, Shelli, Po'aley Agudat Yisra'el and the Independent Liberals were also rejected. After the political debate the Knesset members left for Mount Herzl for the national memorial ceremony.

MINISTER YIG'AL HOROWITZ WITHDRAWS RESIGNATION

TA251010Y Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1000 GMT 25 Jul 78 TA

[Text] Industry, Commerce and Tourism Minister Yig'al Horowitz will not resign. Following a lengthy talk with the prime minister and members of the Knesset Finance Committee, the minister decided to accept the compromise formula which says that the Knesset Finance Committee will decide to cut at least 3 billion Israeli pounds from the budget.

Knesset Finance Committee chairman, Shelomo Lorincz, told correspondents that the committee is indeed sovereign in making its decisions, but that the meeting with the prime minister played a role in passing the resolution. He remarked that the prime minister cannot force the committee to decide on cuts, however, he accepts his request.

Begin asked the Knesset Finance Committee not to harm the lower income strata and the welfare provisions while making the cuts in the budget.

Minister Horowitz told correspondents that this compromise satisfied him and that from now on he expects to take a more active part in shaping the economic policy and in consolidating major decisions.

MINISTER HOROWITZ DISCUSSES REASONS FOR DISCONTENT

TA241222Y Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1105 GMT 24 Jul 78 TA

[From the Midday Newsreel]

[Excerpts] Prime Minister Menahem Begin said there was no governmental crisis, as perhaps Industry, Commerce and Tourism Minister Yig'al Horowtiz will go back on his intention to resign. Still, this morning Horowitz resigned from the cabinet and this is, perhaps--at least so far--the first serious crisis of its kind in the Likud government. Correspondent Yosi Melman talked to Yig'al Horowitz about his reasons for resigning: [begin recording]

[Question] Mr Industry Minister, do you intend to submit a letter of resignation?

[Answer] Yes. Actually, I wrote a note, but in order for it to be completely legal, I will write an official letter, in the next few hours, and I am firm in my intention for one reason; in my opinion, if the budget is not cut we will enter an inflationary spiral which will seriously harm exports and increase demand, imports will increase and our entire forecast will change.

[Question] I have heard in the Knesset cafeteria that many ministers approached you and told you not to resign.

[Answer] Yes, there were also delegations of industrialists. They urge me not to resign and I would like to tell you that I was very happy at work--I am still very happy up to this day--this year was an interesting year both in the cabinet and in the ministry. However, the economy cannot be badly conducted and we must make efforts to better it. If I cannot be a partner in the betterment process, I would not like to be a partner in the responsibility.

[Question] In other words, the situation now is that you intend to write a letter of resignation and that within 48 hours it will be effective and you are resigning from the cabinet?

[Answer] This is how the law goes.

[Question] You insist on doing so?

[Answer] I understand that after the cabinet has decided--I had hoped that the cabinet will not decide and will reexamine the matter--but after the cabinet voted to approve a budget involving the funneling of 28 billion Israeli pounds, I no longer regard myself as a partner.

[Question] What may cause you to retract on your decision?

[Answer] A change. If it were guaranteed that the cut will take place. This is not a matter of capriciousness at all, or prestige or anything. If the cut were guaranteed I would gladly have remained in the cabinet. However, to be a part of printing money in such a scale and with a deficit of 12.5 billion pounds--I cannot be part of that.

[Question] Mr Horowitz, this in fact is a kind of threat against the cabinet as if you were putting a revolver to the cabinet's head. The prime minister, too, if I am not mistaken, during the cabinet session, said that this is a threat to say--before the vote--that you were resigning.

[Answer] God forbid. I fully respect the vote. I, however, cannot vote with it.

[Question] Your fellow members in the La'am faction say that you cannot do this on your own because you are the representative of the party. MK Zalman Shoval said that if you insist on resigning, they will demand a withdrawal from the cabinet--the La'am faction will withdraw from the coalition.

[Answer] I know that they have called [on me not to resign.] I have received an invitation to attend a meeting of the faction in an hour. We shall hear what the members will say.

[Question] Is there any chance that you will retract your resignation?

[Answer] I told you: if a cut is not guaranteed, I will not retract it.

[Question] Thank you very much. [end recording]

PRIME MINISTER AMUZEGAR SHUFFLES CABINET

LD240930Y Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 0900 GMT 24 Jul 78 LD

[Excerpt] Jamshid Amuzegar shuffled his cabinet today. The shah received Mr Jamshid Amuzegar, the prime minister, at Noshahr Palace this morning. During this audience Mr Jamshid Amuzegar, the prime minister, introduced the following to the shah:

Mr Mehdi Safavian as minister of roads and transport;

Nasrollah Moqtader Mozhdehi as minister of health and welfare;

Morteza Salehi as minister of state and director of the planning and budget organization;

Manuchehr Agah as minister of state;

Mojir Molavi as chancellor of Azarabadegan University, and Mr Kazem Vadi'i as chancellor of Revolution Corps University.

EARTHQUAKE REGISTERED SOUTHWEST OF TEHRAN

LD242020Y Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1900 GMT 24 Jul 78 LD

[Text] The PARS News Agency reports from Khorramabad that at 2100 today an earthquake measuring 4.4 on the Richter scale shook Khorramabad city and the surrounding region. A Tehran University Institute of Geophysics spokesman, confirming the report, stated the institute registered an earthquake measuring 4.4 on the Richter scale some 350 km southwest of Tehran near the Khorramabad region. Fortunately the earthquake caused no casualties.

AFGHANISTAN

TARAKI MEETS, ADDRESSES CITIZENS FROM BEHSUD

LD212120Y Kabul Domestic Service in Dari 1600 GMT 11 Jul 78 LD

[Text] Nur Mohammad Taraki, chairman of the Revolutionary Council and prime minister, received and talked to a number of prominent citizens from Behsud, the center of Vardak Province, at People's House at 1000 today. At the outset of his talk, the general secretary of the Central Committee of the Afghanistan People's Democratic Party [PDP] congratulated those present on the victory of the April revolution and added: I sincerely congratulate every patriotic individual in the dear country, particularly you who have always suffered more torment and oppression at the hands of reaction and despotism of previous antipeople regimes and have (?suffered discrimination) under various racial, religious and regional names.

The chairman of the Revolutionary Council and prime minister added: Your people's regime has begun extensive efforts and has taken positive strides for the development and advancement of the dear country and the people's tranquility. We do not make empty promises but will prove in practice that we are working for the prosperity of the homeland. Of course, the greater part of our attention will be focused on those people and those parts of the country that have been most deprived and that have suffered the most oppression.

What we expect from you, courageous and patriotic people of the country, is to render your sincere support to your people's government and to cooperate with it; to play a serious and active role in the projects your people's government has undertaken for the flourishing of the country; to strive with all your heart and soul for the realization of the progressive aims of the revolution and not to allow the defeated enemies of the people to sow discord among you and use it to their advantage through the plots of their foreign and domestic backers and with their shameless machinations under the names of Shi'ite, Sunni, Pushtun, Hazara, Uzbek, Tajik and others.

It should be said that your people's government treats all the peoples of the country's ethnic minorities from the viewpoint of their class position and not from the viewpoint of their race, language, or whether they are Shi'ite or Sunni. We treat our Bindu compatriots on an equal footing with our other compatriots too.

The enemies of our revolution cannot endure our people's government because our people's government is the vanguard of the strata of the workers, peasants and other toilers. The inception of such a government in any part of the world has always been against the interests of the feudalists, class oppressors and exploiters and, for this very reason, the enemies of our people's government level untrue and baseless accusations against us and utilize precisely the same old moribund weapons of previous eras. They level the baseless accusation against us that we do not pay heed to and do not respect religious principles, as it were. But as we have often said, I repeat once again that your people's government has had and does have profound respect for the principles of the holy religion of Islam.

Nur Mohammad Taraki, the true and sagacious son of the homeland and general secretary of the Afghanistan PDP, added: Afghanistan's great epochmaking revolution was not achieved without cost. Over 30 years ago, we and our comrades began our struggles toward this goal, and 15 years ago the courageous and patriotic sons of the country closed ranks around the epoch making idea of the working class--the PDP--of which I had and continue to have the honor of being the leader; and, accepting every hardship and problem, they began their consistent and remorseless struggles against the former antipeople, antinational and oppressive regimes, which for the past half century had mercilessly inflicted their oppression and injustice on our people. The outcome of our more than 30-year struggles came into fruition within a few limited hours thanks to the heroic self-sacrifice of the armed forces under the leadership of the PDP; and our courageous young people overthrew and destroyed forever the pharanoic and despotic Sardari palaces within a few hours.

Nur Mohammad Taraki, chairman of the Revolutionary Council and prime minister of the Democratic Republic of Afghanistan told those present: Dear brothers, your government is a people's government. It does not belong to anybody. Your government is not a hereditary government run by a number of traitorous Sardars; rather those who run your people's government at present are millions of honest, courageous and patriotic people of Afghanistan. The leadership of your government belongs to the party of the working class, the PDP. And everyone knows that the membership of this party is made up of your best patriotic sons from every tribe and region in the country: Pushtuns, Hazaras, Uzbek, Tajiks and other courageous ethnic groups of Afghanistan. The members of your government, who are themselves from the country's various tribes, have not been appointed because of their politics. The yardstick used in appointing them has been the measure of their party work, their hard work within the party, their patriotism, competence and aptitude, their self-sacrifice and their party struggles. If any party or government members--no matter what position he holds--violates the party's and people's government's principles and regulations, he will be punished immediately.

Toward the end of his talk, Nur Mohammad Taraki, general secretary of the PDP Central Committee, expressed the wish that those present would convey his congratulations and his most ardent wishes and greetings to the other people living in their regions and inform them that all have now been freed from the shackles of injustice and oppression and that all are brothers and are equal.

The BAKHTAR NEWS AGENCY correspondent adds: At the conclusion of the talk given by the chairman of the Revolutionary Council and prime minister, one of those present, on behalf of the others, congratulated Nur Mohammad Taraki, general secretary of the PDP Central Committee, on the victory of the great April revolution, adding: He sighs--day and night--the moans and prayers of us, the oppressed and helpless people, at long last became the directing factors in your line of action and gave the country's courageous and patriotic sons the power to use their powerful and mighty hands to heroically deliver blows on the heads of the unjust oppressors from the bloodthirsty Nadiri dynasty and to free us, the troubled and tormented people, from the talons of injustice and oppression of the traitorous leaders and Sardars.

KABUL REPORTS ON REVOLUTIONARY COUNCIL SESSION

LDT221934Y Kabul Domestic Service in Dari 1600 GMT 12 Jul 78 LD

[Text] The Democratic Republic of Afghanistan's Revolutionary Council met today at People's House from 1500 to 1730 under the chairmanship of Nur Mohammad Taraki, chairman of the Revolutionary Council and prime minister of the Democratic Republic of Afghanistan. The council heard and endorsed the report of the chairman of the Revolutionary Council and prime minister of the Democratic Republic of Afghanistan pertaining to the activities and measures of the government following the victorious April revolution up to the present.

The Revolutionary Council, after a discussion and study in depth, endorsed Decree No 6 and its Supplement No 1 with regard to the cancellation of the loans of usurers and mortgages owed by peasants with little or no land.

The Revolutionary Council endorsed the abolition of the prerequisites of officers of the Afghanistan People's Armed Forces.

The Revolutionary Council also endorsed Supplement No 3 of the law on government officials and Supplement No 2 of Decree No 3 of the Democratic Republic of Afghanistan on defining the competence of primary courts and central and provincial appeals courts.

The Revolutionary Council endorsed the prime minister's recommendation pertaining to the abolition of the Ministry of Social Affairs and the joining of its branches to former government bodies and later to the authorities in the Afghanistan People's Democratic Party.

The Revolutionary Council changed the title of the Ministry of National Defense of Afghanistan to the Ministry of Defense of Afghanistan and has changed the name of the National Armed Forces of Afghanistan, hitherto in use, to the Afghanistan People's Armed Forces.

The chairman of the Revolutionary Council and prime minister of the Democratic Republic of Afghanistan congratulated the Revolutionary Council for endorsing and issuing decree No 6 of the Revolutionary Council and its Supplement No 1, to take effect following its publication in the OFFICIAL GAZETTE, referring to that as a giant step along the path of overthrowing the feudalist system in the country and a bold revolutionary move in the interest of peasants with little or no land.

U.S. UNDER SECRETARY DAVID NEWSOM RECEIVED BY TARAKI

LDT231748Y Kabul Domestic Service in Pushtu 1530 GMT 13 Jul 78 LD

[Text] The Information Department of the Foreign Ministry reports that Nur Mohammad Taraki, president of the Revolutionary Council and prime minister, received a courtesy call from David Newsom, under secretary of state for political affairs in the U.S. State Department, at 1700 at the People's House today. Adolph Dubs, the ambassador of that country in Kabul, was also present at this meeting.

Received by Amin

LDT231756Y Kabul Domestic Service in Pushtu 1530 GMT 13 Jul 78 LD

[Text] The Information Department of the Foreign Ministry reports that Hafizollah Amin, deputy prime minister and foreign minister, received David Newsom, under secretary of state for political affairs in the U.S. State Department, for a courtesy call at 1530 today in the Foreign Ministry. The U.S. ambassador in Kabul was also present at this meeting.

The under secretary of state for political affairs at the U.S. State Department arrived in Kabul at 1230 today. Mr Shah Mohammad Dost, political deputy minister of foreign affairs; the director of the Third Political Department; the assistant director of protocol; the U.S. ambassador in Kabul and some members of the U.S. Embassy welcomed Newsom at Kabul International Airport.

According to another report, Shah Mohammad Dost, political deputy foreign minister, had a meeting with Newsom at 1500 at the Foreign Ministry and held talks with him on matters of interest to the two sides.

AFGHAN-SOVIET BORDER BRIDGE CONSTRUCTION AGREEMENT SIGNED

LDT202346Y Kabul Domestic Service in Dari 1600 GMT 11 Jul 78 LD

[Text] The agreement for the construction of the Hayratan Bridge to span the Amu Darya River and a number of other agreements pertaining to equipment and the construction of certain projects of the Ministry of Public Works were concluded in Kabul this afternoon by the Democratic Republic of Afghanistan and the USSR. The agreements were signed and their instruments were exchanged by Sarwar Mangal, deputy minister of public works, and by Viktor (?Shudenko), deputy head of the Soviet Tekhmasheksport, in the presence of Major Mohammad Rafi', minister of public works, and Aleksandr [name indistinct], counselor and minister at the Soviet Embassy in Kabul.

Following the signing of the agreement, Major Mohammad Rafi' spoke about the cordial ties between the Democratic Republic of Afghanistan and the USSR and on the disinterested cooperation between the two neighboring and friendly countries and expressed hope for a further strengthening of relations and cooperation between the two countries.

A Ministry of Public Works source said: The Hayratan Bridge will be built to span the Amu Darya River within 4 and 1/2 years at a cost of 33.7 million rubles and will be 816 meters long. The source added: The Hayratan Bridge is one of the biggest engineering installations and the first project of its kind to be built over the border river. In the course of the construction of the bridge, the plans for its construction will be worked out by Soviet experts. The source added: In accordance with other agreements matters connected with agriculture, the study and working out of building plans, equipment and services of experts for the Hayratan Harbor installations, for over 10.03 million rubles, will be carried out by the Soviet Union. Similarly, in accordance with other agreements signed today, a quantity of equipment and parts are to be imported for the road-building projects of the Ministry of Public Works.

AFGHANISTAN, GDR SIGN TRADE AGREEMENT 13 JULY

LDT231746Y Kabul Domestic Service in Pushtu 1530 GMT 13 Jul 78 LD

[Text] The first trade agreement within the framework of balanced bilateral trade was signed between the Democratic Republic of Afghanistan and the GDR in Kabul this morning.

Attending the signing ceremony were: Abdolqoddus Ghorbandi, minister of trade; Dr Klaus Willerding, GDR deputy minister of foreign affairs; the charge d'affaires of the GDR Embassy in Kabul; Gholam Sarwar Yuresh, deputy minister of trade; Mr Hans Sachse, GDR deputy minister of foreign trade [name and title as heard]. The instruments of the agreement were exchanged.

During the signing ceremony, Gholam Sarwar Yuresh, deputy minister of trade, and Dr Klaus Willerding, GDR deputy minister of foreign affairs, gave brief speeches and positively appraised the good relations between the Democratic Republic of Afghanistan and the GDR and expressed hope for the greater expansion of friendly relations and economic cooperation in various fields.

A source at the Ministry of Trade said: Under this agreement, the Democratic Republic of Afghanistan will export cotton, wool, dried fruits such as raisins, almonds, walnuts, pistachios, olive oil, medical herbs, karakol pelts, hides, handicrafts, and textiles and will import various types of agricultural machinery, textile machinery, equipment for animal husbandry, machinery for road construction, laboratory equipment, stationary and electrical equipment from the GDR. The source added that this agreement is valid until the end of 1979.

Foreign Minister, Delegation Depart

LDT231750Y Kabul Domestic Service in Pushtu 1530 GMT 13 Jul 78 LD

[Excerpts] GDR Deputy Foreign Minister Dr Klaus Willerding and his accompanying delegation left Kabul for home today.

During its stay in Afghanistan, the GDR delegation held talks with Afghan officials on the expansion of cultural, scientific and technical relations between the two countries and also signed a trade agreement between the Democratic Republic of Afghanistan and the GDR.

INDIA

VAJPAYEE NOT TO CANCEL PRC VISIT OVER KARAKORAM, KASHMIR

BK211050Y Delhi General Overseas Service in English 1000 GMT 21 Jul 78 BK

[Text] The external affairs minister, Mr Vajpayee, has told the Parliament that the construction of the Karakoram Highway linking China with Pakistan through occupied territory in Jammu and Kashmir is illegal. Speaking in the Lok Sabha today, he said India had lodged a protest immediately on the formal opening of the highway to the concerned countries. However, he ruled out the cancellation of the forthcoming visit to China on this issue or against [as heard] the recent Chinese statement supporting the Pakistani demand for giving the people of Kashmir the so-called right of self-determination.

He said India's position on Kashmir is well known and there is no question of giving the right of self-determination to an integral part of the country. He said he will raise this and other issues with the Chinese leaders during his forthcoming visit to Peking.

Reacting sharply to an opposition member's charge that the government is not taking care of the national interests in the name of normalizing relations with the neighboring countries, Mr Vajpayee said it was the then ruling party that had surrendered one third of Jammu and Kashmir to Pakistan.

Earlier, speaking in the Rajya Sabha, Mr Vajpayee said India will be prepared to discuss the boundary question with China at an appropriate time. The government is happy that the Chinese Government also believes in seeking a solution to the border question. This impression is also confirmed from the reports of the journalist team which visited China recently.

Replying to a question, Mr Vajpayee said Indi[illegible]ill support Pakistan if there is a consensus in favor of that country participating as a guest in the Belgrade meeting of the nonalined foreign ministers. Pakistan has approached the Nonalined Coordinating Bureau in this regard. While established (?criteria) forbid a member of a multilateral military alliance from becoming a member of the nonalined group, some countries similarly placed had been permitted to participate as guests at the Colombo summit.

The external affairs minister also informed the house that the government is fully aware of the racial situation in Britain. While there are certain elements in that country interested in creating racial discord and discrimination, the leaders are interested in promoting good relations with the immigrants.

Mr Vajpayee said the recent policy statements of the Conservative Party leader, Mrs Thatcher, are good. He urged the members not to give exaggerated importance to the National Front in Britain which does not enjoy the support of the people. All Asians are subject to discrimination, and they are uniting and cooperating in solving the problem. Mr Vajpayee also assured the house that if racial violence [word indistinct] in Britain, the government will take necessary steps to insure the safety of the immigrants.

INDIA RECOMMENDED TO HEAD NONALINED POLITICAL COMMITTEE

BK241616Y Delhi Domestic Service in English 1530 GMT 24 Jul 78 BK

[Excerpt] In Belgrade, India has been recommended to head the crucial Political Committee of the nonalined ministerial conference opening tomorrow. The 25-member Preparatory Committee today recommended Guyana to head the Economic Committee and the Cameroon to be the rapporteur general of the conference.

The AIR [All-India Radio] special correspondent, Prakash Bhalla, covering the talks in Belgrade, reports that the adoption of these recommendations by the full ministerial committee is only a formality. After the plenary session tomorrow there will be simultaneous sessions of the two committees and the general debate will be from Wednesday.

Our correspondent says the committee meetings will be marked by intensive discussions on the political and economic issues before the nonalined group. While reviewing the political and economic developments in the international field since the Colombo summit 2 years ago, the committees will examine how to further develop the role of the nonalined movement for ushering in a new political and economic order in the world.

Meanwhile, with just a day left for the meeting, the foreign ministers are engaged in hectic rounds of informal consultations. Mr Atal Bihari Vajpayee called on the Yugoslav foreign minister this morning. Earlier, he received the Bhutanese foreign minister and is also scheduled to meet some more of his counterparts later in the day.

MARXIST PARTY FORMS TRADE UNION FEDERATION

BK241203Y Calcutta ANANDA BAZAR PATRIKA in Bengali 17 Jul 78 p 4 BK

[Text] Gauhati, 16 July--At the end of their 2-day meeting in Gauhati today, delegates from about 100 pro-CPI-ML [Communist Party of India--Marxist-Leninist] trade unions, coming from different parts of the country, formed a new organization known as the "Indian Federation of Trade Unions."

DELHI REPORTS LOSSES IN NORTHERN FLOODS

BK201603Y Delhi Domestic Service in English 1530 GMT 20 Jul 78 BK

[Text] According to official sources, at least 25 people have lost their lives in 12 blocks of the flood-affected Sitamarhi and Muzaffarpur Districts of Binar. Making a statement in the state assembly today on the flood situation, the chief minister, Mr Karpuri Thakur, said 400,000 inhabitants of nine blocks of Sitamarhi District alone have been affected. Standing crops in 76,000 hectares of land have been washed away, he added.

Meanwhile, army and civil authorities are working round the clock in rescue and relief operations in the flood-affected districts of Uttar Pradesh. Work on the plugging of breaches on river embankments is also continuing in full swing in the districts of Basti, Gonda and Bahraich. About 51 people have died and about a 1,000 villages inundated in the current floods. The state government has sanctioned rupees 750,000 for relief measures.

PAKISTAN

AGHA SHAHI LEAVES FOR BELGRADE NONALINED MEETING

BK230834Y Karachi Overseas Service in Urdu 0800 GMT 23 Jul 78 BK

[Text] Minister of State for Foreign Affairs Agha Shahi left Karachi for Belgrade this morning where he will attend the nonalined foreign ministers conference.

Earlier, the preparatory meeting of the nonalined countries had recommended that Pakistan be invited to attend the conference as a guest.

SRI LANKA

JAYEWARDENE ISSUES STATEMENT ON ANNIVERSARY OF HIS RULE

BK220818Y Hong Kong AFP in English 0734 GMT 22 Jul 78 BK

[Text] Colombo, July 22 (AFP)--Sri Lanka's president, J.R. Jayewardene, in a statement on the first anniversary of his rule, today assured the country that his government has the political will and confidence to take necessary steps to promote economic growth and stability.

Mr Jayewardene came to power at the general election on 21 July last year with an unprecedented five-sixths majority in Parliament when his United National Party won 141 seats in the 168-member Parliament ousting former Prime Minister Mrs Sirimavo Bandrananike and her party from office.

Mr Jayewardene said, while the past year can be looked upon as a year of formulation of projects, the coming year should see the beginning of constructional and developmental activities. However, he warned the people "we have undertaken a stupendous task. In six years (the government's term) we are seeking to wipe out a colossal heritage of inefficiency, nepotism, corruption and stagnation."

The president said that during the past year a free society has been created in the country, unjust laws abolished and freedom of speech restored.

Unlike during the past regime where power was wielded arbitrarily and by a few, we have always attempted to govern by moral codes of self-discipline and abide by the rule of law," he added.

Mr Jayewardene said his government has accorded to opposition political parties privileges and facilities beyond their wildest dreams.

"In no way have we permitted vested interests of a few capitalists to thrive," he said, "except in the free trade zone, which we have created for a special purpose. Capitalism will not rear its ugly head in the rest of the island."

Referring to the minority communities, Mr Jayewardene claimed his government has managed to create a better understanding among them. "We are all equal in the eyes of the law and equal in the eyes of the government. There are no second class citizens in Sri Lanka," he said.

Turning to foreign affairs, Mr Jayewardene said, "As chairman of the non-aligned we have done everything possible to preserve the true character of non-alignment and its proper direction in accordance with the principles formulated at the Bandung conference in 1955 and thereafter."

Mr Jayewardene claimed specific achievements in the field of agriculture and cited figures to show increased production of rice, teak, rubber and coconut during the past year.

The president said his government has received sufficient foreign aid for development, but the people must decide whether they want to eat with the money given as aid or find jobs for their children, he said. He said there were 1.3 million unemployed, 20 per cent of the work force, when his party took over the government a year ago. The government, he said, will give utmost priority to the creation of employment. Several major development projects have been already started, he said.

Mr Jayewardene told his political opponents and critics that they should judge the accomplishments of his government at the end of the six-year term and not earlier.

TANJUG INTERVIEWS HAMEED ON NONALINED GOALS

LD191514Y Belgrade TANJUG in English 1133 GMT 19 Jul 78 LD

[Text] Colombo, July 19 (TANJUG)--"I am confident that the Belgrade non-aligned conference wil enable our non-aligned movement to close its ranks and strengthen its unity and solidarity so that non-alignment may continue to play its dynamic role in international affairs."

The Sri Lanka minister for foreign affairs, A.C.S. Hameed, stated this in an interview to TANJUG's correspondent in Colombo, Boza Rafajlovic. Minister Hameed will participate, as the head of his country's delegation, in the forthcoming conference of the non-aligned in Belgrade.

"The general situation in the world," Minister Hameed assessed, "is now worse than during the Colombo summit." "Most of the problems the non-aligned have committed themselves to solve, have remained unsolved," he said. "At this biggest non-aligned meeting after Colombo, we will, therefore, discuss first of all those "current unsolved international questions."

Minister Hameed also stated he is happy for this occasion to visit Yugoslavia. "There is a perfect understanding between Yugoslavia and Sri Lanka, and our relations are extremely friendly," he said and added "we are common partners in the non-aligned 'movement'."

In addition to a general debate on international relations, Minister Hameed cited as an important question for discussion in Belgrade, the suggestion for defining procedure and decision-making by the non-aligned, especially definition of the principle of consensus.

Minister Hameed also pointed to the Yugoslav draft for elaborating and establishing a mechanism to resolve conflicts between non-aligned countries.

"Our movement has never discussed the problems which may arise from bilateral differences," Minister Hameed said. "However, the tragic development of conflicts between some member countries has put many of us before the simple question: Why not establish a mechanism for the elimination of mutual conflicts among the member countries, in order to help them in resolving these and not allowing external interference and interventions."

Emphasizing the importance of the forthcoming conference in Belgrade, the Sri Lanka minister stated that it will be the biggest non-aligned meeting since the summit held in Colombo in 1976.

Minister Hameed went on to say that most of the problems the non-aligned have committed themselves to solve quickly and properly have remained unsolved. "In the economic field, our quest for a new international economic order is deadlocked. Many purely political questions are also unsolved as in the Middle East, in Zimbabwe, in the south of Africa. And more, the tragic development of conflicts among the membership led for the first time to open struggle between some members."

"As the chairman of the non-aligned movement, we have made every efforts to keep the movement in line with the non-aligned principles. I am confident and full of optimism that the Belgrade conference will enable us to close our ranks and strengthen unity and solidarity so that non-alignment may continue to play its dynamic role in international affairs.

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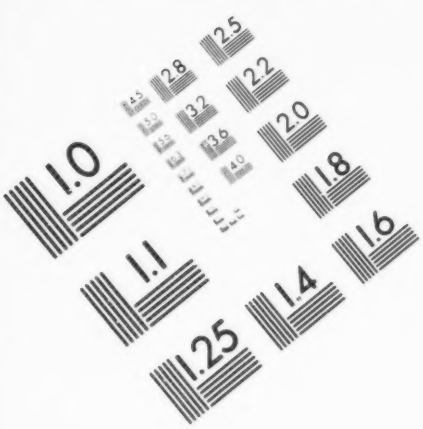

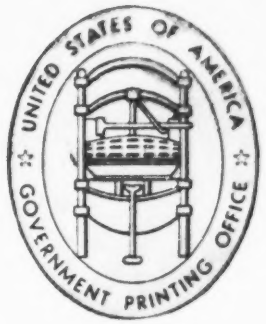

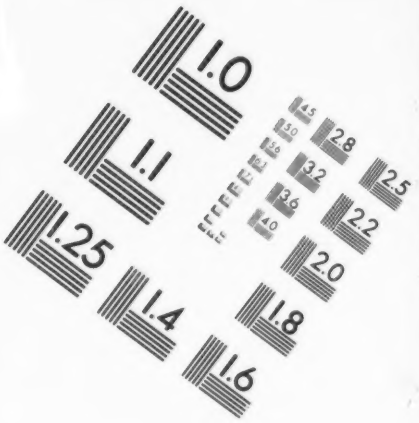

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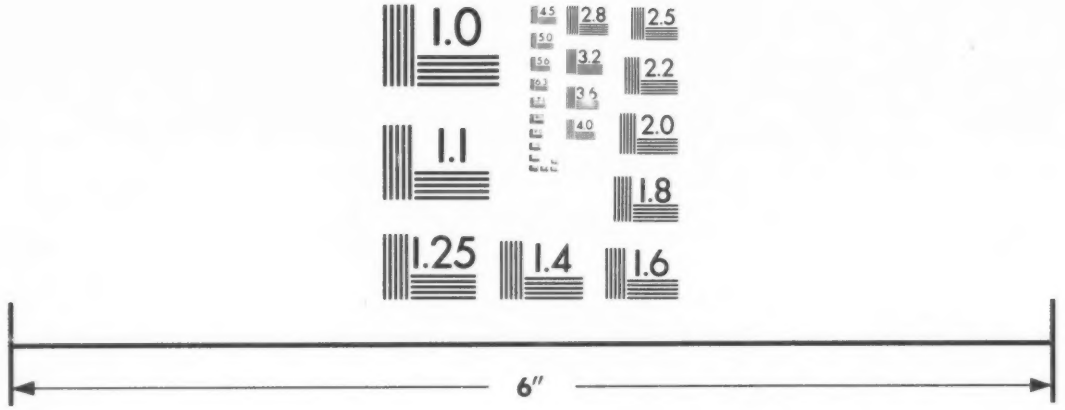

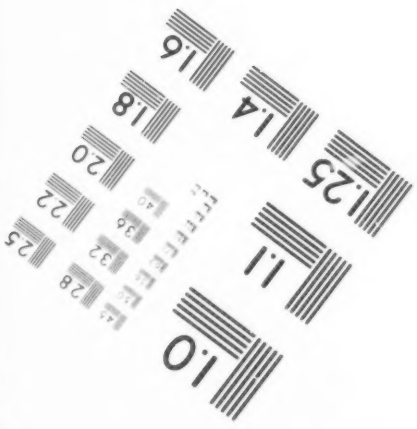

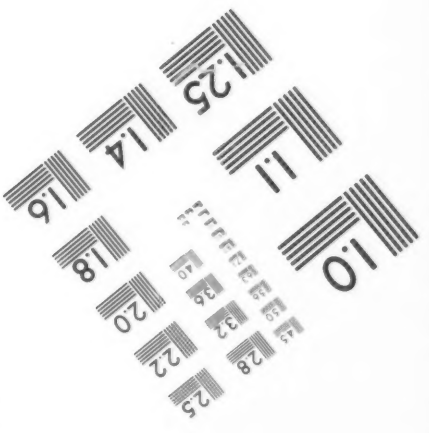

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